



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 568-2911
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: April 12, 2019

Attachment 3

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Chris Fowler, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Supervisor)

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:
2017 Fire Investigator Certification Update

Recommended Actions:
Approve 2017 Investigator Certification Updates.

Background Information:
A couple of requirements were not stated correctly or were left out unintentionally of the update to the 2017 Fire Investigator Certification Application Checklist, Task Book Application and Task Book.

1) The PC832 Arrest and Seizure course must have been completed within 3 years of application. The PC832 can be older than 3 years if currently employed as a peace officer. This requirement was omitted from the Task Book Application and Application Checklist.

The retired Fire Investigator I Certification Checklist:

“PC832 can be older than 3 years if currently employed as a Peace Officer. Peace Officer status must be stated in the letter of experience.”

The 2017 Fire Investigator Certification Checklist:

“P.O.S.T. Certified PC832 Arrest #80102 (40 hours).”

2) In the experience requirements, Law Enforcement employment was omitted from the Application Checklist and Task Book.

The retired Fire Investigator I Certification Checklist:

Have a minimum of one (1) year full-time, paid experience in a California fire department as a fire fighter with responsibility for cause and origin determination while on duty.

Or

Have a minimum of one (1) year full-time, paid experience in a California fire department or law enforcement agency as a fire investigator for origin and cause determination.

The 2017 Fire Investigator Certification Checklist:

Have a minimum of two years full-time paid or 4 years part-time paid/volunteer experience in a recognized fire agency in California with the primary responsibility as a fire investigator.

3) SFT is proposing an editorial change to the application, by moving the NWCG FI-210 (Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination) pre-requisite to a certification requirement instead of a requirement that must be met prior to obtaining the task book.

SFT has received multiple complaints from students stating that it is extremely difficult to find the NWCG FI-210 courses. It is a unique weather-dependent class with a limited instructor cadre.

Analysis/Summary of Issues:

Several of the 2017 cadre have reviewed the above information.

1) This was an oversight during the document update. To comply with the P.O.S.T. requirements, the PC832 Arrest and Seizure certificate is valid when the applicant is working for an agency that has designated him/her as a Peace Officer. If there is a lapse in classification of employment as a peace officer for three years, the PC832 certificate would not be valid.

Compliance will be achieved with correction to the Application Checklist and the Task Book Application to include both the 3-year course limit and the confirmation of peace officer status.

2) The edit to restore the option of Law Enforcement experience is supported, as it will better serve the applicants with varied experience and not change any educational requirements. This change will be reflected in the Application Checklist and the Task Book.

3) The change is supported as it will allow a student to initiate their task book after the required SFT courses are completed, then enroll in the NWCG FI-210 course while completing the task book. This change will be reflected in the Task Book Application and the Application Checklist.



STATE FIRE TRAINING

Fire Investigator I Certification Checklist



Name: _____

SFT ID Number: _____

INSTRUCTION

- Submit a copy of your CFSTES/POST course certificate or score letter* COMPLETE
1. Fire Investigation 1A: Fire Origin and Cause Determination
 2. Fire Investigation 1B: Techniques of Fire Investigation
 3. POST approved PC 832: Laws of Arrest module (completed within 3 years of application)

*PC 832 can be older than three years if currently employed as a peace officer. Peace officer status must be stated in the letter of experience.

PREREQUISITES

- Submit a copy of your OSFM certificate or verification of officer rank on department letterhead and signed by the Fire Chief or his/her authorized representative or a copy of your official college transcripts* COMPLETE
1. OSFM certified Fire Fighter II

*Appointed to the rank of officer (Lieutenant or higher) waives this prerequisite. Performing in an "acting" capacity does not qualify for this waiver

OR

Completion of the five (5) core classes (three (3) units each) from the Uniform Fire Technology/Science curricula.

*These classes are: 1) Fire Protection Organization, 2) Fire Prevention Technology, 3) Fire Protection Equipment and Systems, 4) Building Construction for Fire Protection, 5) Fire Behavior and Combustion. These classes must be completed from an accredited California community college. CFSTES classes are not considered core curricula and do not qualify

EXPERIENCE

- Submit a current, original letter signed on department letterhead and signed by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, or Sheriff or his/her authorized representative describing your specific background as it relates to these experience requirements* COMPLETE
1. Have a minimum of one (1) year full-time, paid experience in a California fire department as a fire fighter with responsibility for cause and origin determination while on duty.

OR

Have a minimum of one (1) year full-time, paid experience in a California fire department or law enforcement agency as a fire investigator for origin and cause determination.

OR

Have had responsibility in a California fire department or law enforcement agency for origin and cause determination on 100 fires.



STATE FIRE TRAINING

Fire Investigator II Certification Checklist



Name: _____

SFT ID Number: _____

INSTRUCTION

Submit a copy of your CFSTES course certificate

COMPLETE

1. Fire Investigation 2A: Criminal and Legal Procedures
2. Fire Investigation 2B: Field Case Studies

PREREQUISITES

Submit a copy of your OSFM certificate

COMPLETE

1. OSFM certified Fire Investigator I.

EXPERIENCE

Submit a current, original letter signed on department letterhead and signed by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, or Sheriff or his/her authorized representative describing your specific background as it relates to these experience requirements. This letter must also include the date the applicant qualified as an expert witness, the court designator, and the case name and number.

COMPLETE

This experience must involve the full range of investigative duties including origin and cause determination, evidence collection and preservation, interviewing and interrogations, securing search warrants, arrest of suspects, case preparation, and courtroom presentation.

1. Department Service:

Have a minimum two (2) years full-time, paid experience in a California fire department **or** law enforcement agency as a fire investigator with overall responsibility for fire investigations in your jurisdiction

or

Have had overall responsibility in a California fire department **or** law enforcement agency for the investigation of 150 fires

2. Expert Witness:

Have qualified as an expert witness in fire origin and cause determination in a California criminal court proceeding - The expert witness class does not currently qualify as courtroom testimony

or

Has taken one of the following courses:

- CCAI course – Expert Witness Testimony
- IAAI course – Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony
- NFA course – Interview Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony