



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Pilot FF1 (2019) HazMat FRA/FRO Exam

Issued: July 2021

OVERVIEW

State Fire Training implemented the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) HazMat Exams in 2020. The current Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Awareness exam is composed of ten (10) questions, and the Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Operations exam is composed of fifteen (15) questions. State Fire Training has consulted test development and validation specialists from California State University Sacramento (CSUS). These consultants have evaluated the Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 (2019) Certification Exams and provided recommendations on how to improve the performance and reliability. The primary recommendation is to improve the reliability of the FF1B FRA/FRO exams by increasing the number of questions to allow candidates to sufficiently demonstrate knowledge of the subject.

NEW PILOT HAZMAT FIRST RESPONDER EXAM

Beginning August 1, 2021, State Fire Training will initiate a pilot program for Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Awareness and the Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Operations Certification Exams with an increased number of questions and time for completion. The pilot exams will contain 30 questions each and allow for up to 36 minutes to complete. This pilot program is optional for Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP) and Accredited Local Academies (ALA) willing to participate.

Exam	Current Exam	Pilot Exam
FF1B: HazMat First Responder Awareness	10 Questions 12 Minutes	30 Questions 36 Minutes
FF1B: HazMat First Responder Operations	15 Questions 18 Minutes	30 Questions 36 Minutes

SCHEDULING

ARTPs and ALAs may continue to use the current exams containing fewer questions. To opt into the pilot program, notify the Exam Scheduler at the time of Exam Request submittal by adding "Request for Pilot HazMat Exam" to the Comments field within the Exam Scheduling web form on the SFT User Portal.

EVALUATION

State Fire Training and the CSUS specialists will continue to monitor these exam metrics to ensure the performance and reliability of the pilot exams. If performance and/or reliability improve, then State Fire Training will consider a proposal to the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee and State Board of Fire Service for implementation of the 30-question exams.