



FIRE FIGHTER 1 AND 2 (2019) Certification Exam Overview

Certification Exam Overview

The following information is a quick overview of the SFT Certification Examination. For a complete guide on the certification examination program visit the SFT Procedures Manual, Chapter 11 for more information.

The Certification Exam for Fire Fighter 1 and 2 contains both a cognitive and psychomotor exam.

The Fire Fighter 1 (2019) Certification Exam is comprised of three testing modules. Each testing module can be delivered after the training for that module has been completed, or it can be delivered at the end of all of the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) academic training. The three modules are:

1. Fire Fighter 1A: Structure
2. Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD
3. Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland

The Fire Fighter 2 (2019) Certification Exam is comprised of one testing module, Fire Fighter 2A: Structure. The Fire Fighter 2A testing module can be delivered after the training has been completed.

Candidates seeking enrollment in a certification exam at a testing site that was not the same as the training site must provide the testing site with one or more of the applicable exam eligibility documents:

- Exam Authorization form
- Training Record and/or signed Skills Sheets from training
- Alternate Delivery Waiver
- SFT Student Course (Exam) Transcript

Fire Fighter 1A: Structure

Exam Entry Requirements

Complete the Fire Fighter 1A: Structure academic training and provide applicable verification of exam eligibility.

Cognitive Exam

100 questions with a time limit of 120 minutes.

Psychomotor Skills Exam

7 required skills and 3 random skills.

Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD

Exam Entry Requirements

Complete the Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD academic training and provide applicable verification of exam eligibility.

Cognitive Exam

There are two sections to the Fire Fighter 1B Cognitive Exam:

1. Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Awareness
10 questions with a time limit of 12 minutes.

NOTE: Beginning July 1, 2023, the Fire Fighter 1B: FRA Cognitive Exam will increase the questions and time limit to 25 questions with a time limit of 30 minutes.



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2. Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Operations
15 questions with a time limit of 18 minutes.

NOTE: Beginning July 1, 2023, the Fire Fighter 1B: FRA Cognitive Exam will increase the questions and time limit to 25 questions with a time limit of 30 minutes.

Psychomotor Skills Exam

1 required skill and 2 random skills*.

* To ensure that the standard for Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations (FRO) is tested, at least one of the two randomly selected Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD skills will be drawn directly from the list of HazMat First Responder Operation FRO skills.

Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland

Exam Entry Requirements

Complete the Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland academic training or its approved equivalencies and provide applicable verification of exam eligibility.

Cognitive Exam

25 questions with a time limit of 30 minutes.

Psychomotor Skills Exam

6 required skills and 2 random skills.

Fire Fighter 2A: Structure

Exam Entry Requirements

Completed the Fire Fighter 2A: Structure academic training and provide applicable verification of exam eligibility.

Cognitive Exam

50 questions with a time limit of 60 minutes.

Psychomotor Skills Exam

2 required skills and 3 random skills.

Certification Exam Information

The Certification Exam for Fire Fighter 1 and 2 contains both a cognitive and psychomotor exam.

Cognitive Exam

All cognitive exams are multiple-choice-style examinations delivered through online testing at an accredited testing site. Each cognitive exam requires candidates to achieve a minimum of 70% score. The exam results are displayed upon the completion of the exam and from within the SFT User Portal. A candidate who does not pass a cognitive exam (a score lower than 70%) will be allowed to retake the cognitive exam module up to two times within one year of the first attempt. A candidate who fails the cognitive exam three times will be advised to seek remedial education before reapplying for additional SFT certification exams.

A candidate who needs to retake a cognitive certification exam shall provide the testing site with their SFT Student Course (Exam) Transcript from the SFT User Portal to determine retake eligibility.



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Exception: It is not necessary to provide verification of retake eligibility when the candidate is an accredited academy candidate type (see Procedures Manual Section 11.3.1) who completed their academic training and all certification exams at the ARTP or ALA administering the certification exam without a separation.

Psychomotor Skills Exam

A candidate must successfully complete 100% of the skills on the Certification Exam Psychomotor Skills Summary form and 100% of the psychomotor steps in each scenario to pass the psychomotor skills exam. An unsafe act committed during the psychomotor skills exam shall be grounds for a failing score. The skills evaluator will notify the candidate of a pass or fail score upon completion of the skills station. The skill sheets can be found on the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) webpage under Training Documentation.

Second Attempt (Same Skills / Same Day)

A candidate who fails an individual psychomotor skill station will be allowed a second attempt for each failed psychomotor skill station on the same day as the initial exam using the same skills. The Registered Lead Evaluator will ensure that a Registered Psychomotor Skills Evaluator different from the one who originally failed the candidate evaluates the retake. A candidate who also fails the second attempt fails the entire psychomotor skills portion of the exam and may retake the module one time within one year of the initial exam date.

Retake – Third Attempt (New Psychomotor Skills / Different Day)

A candidate who fails the second attempt of the psychomotor skills exam will be allowed a third attempt requiring completion of all psychomotor skill stations on a different day from the initial exam using newly assigned skills.

A candidate who seeks to retake a psychomotor certification exam shall provide the testing site with their SFT Student Course (Exam) Transcript from the SFT User Portal to confirm retake eligibility.

Exception: It is not necessary to provide verification of retake eligibility when the candidate is an accredited academy candidate type who completed their academic training and all certification exams at the ARTP or ALA administering the certification exam without a separation.

Fourth Attempt (Same Skills / Same Day)

A candidate who fails an individual psychomotor skill station will be allowed a final retake attempt for each failed psychomotor skill station on the same day as the retake psychomotor exam using the same skills. The Registered Lead Evaluator will ensure that a Registered Psychomotor Skills Evaluator - different from the one who originally failed the candidate- evaluates the 4th attempt. Any candidate receiving a second failing grade on a same-day retake attempt fails the psychomotor skills exam. A candidate who fails the retake psychomotor skills exam will be advised to seek remedial education before reapplying for additional SFT certification exams

Psychomotor and Cognitive Remediation

If a candidate fails the psychomotor skills exam and/or cognitive exam, the candidate must retrain on the entire curriculum (psychomotor and cognitive) for each failed module before they can participate in the exam process.



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At the conclusion of the retraining, the candidate shall obtain the following documentation from the approved instructor:

1. A completed Fire Fighter 1 or 2 Psychomotor Skills Exam Summary Sheet for each module
2. A letter signed by the approved instructor verifying that the candidate has retrained on the entire module including both psychomotor and cognitive materials and activities for each module

A candidate who completes remediation training is eligible to retake the SFT Certification Exam(s).

Any candidate who completes remedial training will be required to submit the documents identified in SFT Procedures Manual: 11.8: Psychomotor and Cognitive Remediation, item B, as part of their application.

Certification Exam Results

Results will be made available in the SFT User Portal when processing is complete.

Curriculum and Reference Material

Fire Fighter 1A: Structure and Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD (2019)

- Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response (Jones and Bartlett Learning, 4th edition, ISBN: 978-1-284-15133-6)
or
Essentials of Fire Fighting (IFSTA, 7th edition, ISBN: 978-087939657-2)

Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland (2019)

- Firefighter's Handbook on Wildland Firefighting: Strategy, Tactics and Safety (Fire Protection Publications, Oklahoma State University, 4th edition, ISBN: 978-087939676-3)
or
- Wildland Fire Fighter: Principles and Practice (Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2nd edition, ISBN: 978-1-284-04211-5)

Fire Fighter 2A: Structure (2019)

- Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response (Jones and Bartlett Learning, 4th edition, ISBN: 978-1-284-15133-6)
or
Essentials of Fire Fighting (IFSTA, 7th edition, ISBN: 978-087939657-2)

Additional Information

State Fire Training Certification Exams are to be delivered in accordance with Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Division 1, [Chapter 13 California Fire Service Training and Education Program](#). The following links are from the [State Fire Training Procedures Manual \(January 2019\)](#):

1. [Section 4.4: Individual Integrity and Ethics](#)
2. [Chapter 11: Fire Fighter Certification Exams](#)
3. [Section 11.3: Candidate Types](#)