



FIRE FIGHTER 1 AND 2 (2024) Certification Exam Overview

Certification Exam Overview

This document outlines the State Fire Training (SFT) Certification Examination procedure. For a comprehensive guide on the exam program, refer to Chapter 11 of the SFT Procedures Manual.

The Fire Fighter 1 and 2 Certification Exams consist of cognitive and skills tests. Relevant Skill Sheets are available on the Fire Fighter page of the SFT website.

The Fire Fighter 1 Certification Exam includes three test modules: Fire Fighter 1A: Structure, Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD, and Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland FF 1. These modules can be taken either after completion of the respective training or at the end of all Fire Fighter 1 academic training.

The Fire Fighter 2 Certification Exam contains one test module, Fire Fighter 2A: Structure, which can be taken after the training is complete.

Candidates wishing to take the exam at a different site from their training location must provide the testing site with relevant exam eligibility documents, such as an Exam Authorization form, Training Record, and/or signed Skills Sheets, Alternate Delivery Waiver, or SFT Student Course (Exam) Transcript.

Test Site Policy

This is a closed-book examination. Any materials brought to the exam site must be left in an unattended area at the candidate's risk.

Reasonable Accommodations

SFT uses accredited testing sites for high-stakes certification exams. These sites may review and approve disability-related accommodations on behalf of SFT. Reasonable accommodations are available for candidates with disabilities who meet legal requirements, including applicable national laws and regulations, ensuring that they have full access to exams.

Accommodations are personalized and considered individually. Candidates requesting accommodations due to a disability must provide documentation of their condition and how it would impact their ability to test under standard conditions. All candidates, including those needing accommodations, must adhere to the same exam security and administration procedures.

Cognitive Test Strategy

This is a multiple-choice exam, with each question offering four options. Only one of these is the BEST answer. Unanswered questions will score zero points. If you're unsure, it's better to attempt an answer than to leave it blank. Sufficient time is given to read and respond to all questions, so make sure to carefully read each question and its options before choosing the BEST answer.



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Fire Fighter 1A: Structure

Exam Entry Requirements

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

Cognitive Exam

100 questions with a time limit of 120 minutes. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.

Topics within the online exam:

| | |
|---|--|
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.1.01 Gen. Knowledge Req | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.11 Horizontal Vent. |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.2.01 Emergency Resp. | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.12 Vertical Vent. |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.2.02 Radio Comms | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.13 Overhaul |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.2.03 Activate Emerg. Call | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.14 Salvage |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.01 SCBA | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.15 Water Supply |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.02 Scene Response | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.16 Extinguishers |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.03 Scene Control | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.17 Scene Lighting |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.04 Forcible Entry | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.18 Scene Safety |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.05 Exit Hazards | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.19 Ground Fire |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.06 Ground Ladders | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.20 Hoist Knots |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.07 Vehicle Fire | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.21 Air Monitor |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.08 Exterior Fire | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.5.01 Clean & Check Eq. |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.09 Search and Rescue | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.5.02 Clean Hose |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 6.3.10 Interior Attack | |

Skills Exam

7 required skills and 3 random skills. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.

Skill Sheets used in the Skill Exam:

| Random | Required |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-3: Inspect SCBA • 1-8: Doff SCBA and PPE for Gross Decon. • 2-1: Initiate a Response to an Emergency • 2-2: Operate a Fire Department Radio • 3-1a: Replace an SCBA Air Cylinder • 3-1b: Use SCBA During Emergency Operations • 3-2: Respond to Emerg. Scene on an Apparatus • 3-3: Operate at an Emergency Scene • 3-4: Force Entry into a Structure • 3-5: Activate an Emergency Call and Exit a Hazardous Area • 3-7: Attack a Passenger Vehicle Fire • 3-8: Operate a Portable Master Stream • 3-9: Combat a Ground Cover Debris or Exterior Fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1-4: Don Structural PPE ▪ 1-5: Don SCBA ▪ 1-6: Doff SCBA ▪ 1-7: Doff, Inspect, and Prepare Structural PPE for Reuse ▪ 3-6: Lift, Carry, and Raise and Ascend a Ground Ladder ▪ 3-11a: Attack a Live Interior Structure Fire or 3-11b*: Attack a Simulated Interior Structure Fire ▪ 3-16b: Hose Lay |



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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-10a: Search for and Rescue a Victim with no Respiratory Protection • 3-10b: Rescue a Fire Fighter • 3-10c: Use a Ladder for Rescue • 3-11c: Extend a Hoseline • 3-11d: Load, Deploy, & Advance an Attack Line • 3-11e: Load Supply Hose • 3-11f: Operate a Charged Attack Hoseline from a Ground Ladder • 3-12: Perform Horizontal Ventilation • 3-13: Perform Vertical Ventilation • 3-14a: Overhaul a Fire Scene • 3-14b: Remove Charred Materials • 3-15a: Control Water Flow from a Sprinkler System • 3-15b: Remove Water from the Interior of a Structure • 3-15c: Salvage a Room and its Contents • 3-15d: Cover Building Openings • 3-16a: Deploy Portable Tank and Prepare for Drafting Operations • 3-17: Select, Carry, & Operate a Portable Fire Extinguisher • 3-18: Light a Scene • 3-19: Turn Off Building Utilities • 3-20a: Tie Knots • 3-20b: Hoist Tools Aloft • 3-21: Operate Hand and Power Tools • 3-22: Operate an Air-Monitoring Instrument • 4-1: Clean and Check Equipment • 4-2a: Replace a Burst Section of Hose • 4-2b: Build Hose Rolls • 4-2c: Clean and Maintain Hose and Mark Defective Hose | <p><i>*Skill 3-11b can utilize the alternate psychomotor skill evaluation if a registered Fire Control 3 course is being taught within the Fire Fighter 1A module.</i></p> |
|---|--|



FIRE FIGHTER 1 AND 2 (2024) Certification Exam Overview

Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD

Exam Entry Requirements

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

Cognitive Exam

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

- Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Awareness
-> 25 questions with a time limit of 30 minutes. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.
- Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Operations/PPE/PC
-> 25 questions with a time limit of 30 minutes. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.

Topics within the online exam

NFPA: 470 FRA (2022) 5.1.3 General FRA
 NFPA: 470 FRA (2022) 5.2.1 Recognition & Id.
 NFPA: 470 FRA (2022) 5.3.1 Protective Actions
 NFPA: 470 FRA (2022) 5.4.1 Notification
 NFPA: 470 FRO (2022) 7.1.4 General FRO
 NFPA: 470 FRO (2022) 7.2.1 Id Potential Haz.

NFPA: 470 FRO (2022) 7.3.1 Identify Tactics
 NFPA: 470 FRO (2022) 7.4.1 Action Plan Imple.
 NFPA: 470 FRO (2022) 7.5.1 Emergency Decon.
 NFPA: 470 FRO (2022) 7.6.1 Prog. Eval. & Rep.
 NFPA: 470 FRO-MS (2022) 9.2.1 PPE
 NFPA: 470 FRO-MS (2022) 9.6.1 Prod. Control

Skills Exam

1 required skill and 2 random skills*. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.

** To maintain the standard for HazMat First Responder Operations (FRO), at least one of the two chosen Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD skills will be selected from the list of HazMat FRO skills (Skill Sheet 6-2 to 6-6).*

Skill Sheets used in the Skill Exam:

| Random | Required |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-2b: Identify Markings • 5-4: Initiate Required Notifications • 6-2: Identify the Scope of a Hazardous Materials/WMD Incident • 6-3: Identify Action Options for a HazMat/WMD Incident • 6-4: Perform Assigned Tasks at a HazMat/WMD Incident • 6-5: Perform Emergency Decontamination • 6-6: Evaluate and Report Progress for a HazMat/WMD Incident • 7-1: Don, Work In, & Doff Chemical PPE • 7-2: Perform Product Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5-2a: Recognize, Identify, and Isolate Hazardous Materials/WMD |



FIRE FIGHTER 1 AND 2 (2024) Certification Exam Overview

Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland

Exam Entry Requirements

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

Cognitive Exam

25 questions with a time limit of 30 minutes. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.

Topics within the online exam

- | | |
|--|--|
| NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.8 Patrol Area | NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.3 Recognize Hazard |
| NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.4.2 Maintain PPE | NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.4 Construct Fireline |
| NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.2.1 Gen. Knowledge | NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.5 Secure Fireline |
| NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.4.3 Pre-suppression | NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.7 Mop Up Area |
| NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.4.4 Maintain PPE Kit | NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.6 Reduce Exposure |
| NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.2 Prepare Response | |

Skills Exam

6 required skills and 2 random skills. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.

Skill Sheets used in the Skill Exam:

| Random | Required |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-1: Maintain Assigned Personal Protective Equipment • 9-2: Maintain Hand Tools and Equipment • 10-1: Assemble and Prepare for Response • 10-2a: Use Incident Response Pocket Guide • 10-3a: Assemble, Use, & Maintain a Back Pump • 10-3c: Construct a Fireline Using Hand Tools • 10-3d: Perform Mobile Pumping • 10-4a: Ignite and Extinguish Road Flares and Fusees • 10-4b: Assemble, Ignite, Extinguish, and Disassemble a Drip Torch • 10-5: Prep and Defend a Structure • 10-6: Perform Mop Up Operations • 10-7: Patrol the Fire Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8-2: Don Wildland Personal Protective Equipment ▪ 8-3: Deploy a Fire Shelter ▪ 8-4: Doff Wildland Personal Protective Equipment ▪ 10-2b: Assume Safety Position for Retardant Drop ▪ 10-3b: Perform a Progressive Hose Lay (Hose) ▪ 10-3b: Perform a Progressive Hose Lay (Nozzle) |



FIRE FIGHTER 1 AND 2 (2024) Certification Exam Overview

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. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.

Topics within the online exam

- | | |
|---|---|
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.1.1 Gen. Knowledge | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.4.1 Extricate Victim |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.2.1 Reports | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.4.2 Assist Team |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.2.2 Comm. Team Assist | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.5.1 Safety Survey |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.3.1 Liquid Fire | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.5.2 Present Safety Info |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.3.2 Interior Attack | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.5.3 Pre-incident Survey |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.3.3 Thermal Imagery | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.5.4 Maintain Tools |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.3.4 Flammable Gas | NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.5.5 Annual Test |
| NFPA: 1010 (2024) 7.3.5 Protect Scene | |

Skills Exam

2 required skills and 3 random skills. Up to two retakes are permitted within 30 days.

Skill Sheets used in the Skill Exam:

| Random | Required |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-1: Complete a Basic Incident Report • 2-2: Communicate Need for Team Asst. • 3-1: Extinguish an Ignitable Liquid Fire^a • 3-2: Control a Flammable Gas Cylinder Fire^b • 3-4: Protect Evidence of Fire Cause & Origin • 3-5: Operate a Thermal Imager (TI) • 4-1: Extricate a Victim Entrapped in a Vehicle^c • 4-2: Assist a Rescue Operations Team • 5-1: Perform a Fire Safety Survey in an Occupied Structure • 5-2: Present Fire Safety Information • 5-3: Prepare a Pre-incident Survey • 5-4: Maintain Power Plants, Tools, & Equip. • 5-5: Perform Annual Ser. Test on Fire Hose | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1-1: Organize an Incident Management System ▪ 3-3: Coordinate an Interior Fire Attack Line |

- a. Skill 3-1 can utilize the alternate psychomotor skill evaluation if a registered Fire Control 4 course is being taught within the Fire Fighter 2A module.
- b. Skill 3-2 can utilize the alternate psychomotor skill evaluation if a registered Fire Control 4 course is being taught within the Fire Fighter 2A module.
- c. Skill 4-1 can utilize the alternate psychomotor skill evaluation if a registered Vehicle Extrication course is being taught within the Fire Fighter 2A module.



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Certification Exam Information

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

Cognitive Exam

All cognitive exams are multiple-choice and conducted online at accredited testing sites. Candidates need to score at least 70% to pass. Exam results are displayed immediately upon completion and can also be accessed via the SFT User Portal.

Retake Eligibility

Candidates seeking to retake a skills exam must present their SFT Student Course (Exam) Transcript from the SFT User Portal at the testing site to confirm their eligibility for a retake.

Exception: Verification of retake eligibility is not required for candidates from accredited academies who have completed their academic training and all certification exams at the ARTP or ALA administering the certification exam, provided there has been no interruption in their training.

Retakes

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 the academy duration or within 30 days of the first attempt. If a candidate can't complete the exam in the given timeframe, they must seek remedial education before reapplying for any SFT Certification Exams.

Skills Exam

To pass the skills exam, a candidate must successfully complete 100% of the assigned skills and 100% of the skills steps in each scenario. An unsafe act committed during the 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. Blank skill sheets, for training and studying, are published on the respective certification page on the SFT website under Training Documentation.

Retake Eligibility

Candidates seeking to retake a skills exam must present their *SFT Student Course (Exam) Transcript* from the SFT User Portal at the testing site to confirm their eligibility for a retake.

Exception: Verification of retake eligibility is not required for candidates from accredited academies who have completed their academic training and all certification exams at the ARTP or ALA administering the certification exam, provided there has been no interruption in their training.

Retakes

Candidates who fail a skill station will have up to two opportunities to retake it either within the academy duration or within 30 days of the first attempt. If a candidate can't complete the exam in the given timeframe, they must seek remedial education before reapplying for any SFT Certification Exams.

Upon a failed first attempt, the Registered Lead Evaluator assesses the candidate's failure and determines if a retake is permitted. If allowed, a different Registered Skills Evaluator administers the retake, documents the attempt, and forwards the results to the Lead Evaluator.



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The same process is followed for the second retake. All attempts and reattempts align with SFT procedures, and candidates meeting SFT criteria may have same-day reattempts. If a reattempt isn't authorized, the candidate will be escorted from the exam site.

Skills and Cognitive Remediation

If a candidate fails either the skills or cognitive exam, they are required to undergo a complete retraining of the failed module before reattempting the exam.

Upon completion of the retraining, the candidate should acquire the following documents from the approved instructor:

- A newly completed Fire Fighter Training Record for each module
- A letter signed by the approved instructor verifying that the candidate has retrained on the entire module, including both skills and cognitive materials and activities for each module

Candidates who have completed remediation training are eligible to retake the SFT Certification Exam(s).

Those who undergo remedial training must submit the documents specified in SFT Procedures Manual: 11.7: 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.

Missed Learning Objective (MLO) Feedback Report

Following completion of a cognitive certification examination, a Missed Learning Objective (MLO) Feedback Report is made available through the State Fire Training (SFT) User Portal. The MLO Report identifies the specific learning objectives missed during the examination, along with the number of questions missed for each objective, to help candidates identify areas requiring additional study or remediation. The report is available immediately upon completion of the examination and may be downloaded from the Training section of the SFT User Portal by locating the applicable exam within the candidate's training history and selecting the MLO Report from the examination action menu.

Sample Question

Below is an example of a cognitive examination question item. The correct answer is marked with an asterisk (*).

1. Roles and responsibilities for Fire Fighter 1 include which of the following?
 - a. Assist special rescue team operations
 - b. Coordinate an interior attack line team
 - c. Respond on apparatus to an emergency scene*
 - d. Prepare reports

Note: All test questions (and skills) are reviewed and locally validated by the California Fire Service.



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Curriculum and Reference Material

Fire Fighter 1A: Structure

- *Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response* (Jones and Bartlett Learning, 5th edition, ISBN: 978-1-284-283051)

OR

Essentials of Fire Fighting (IFSTA, 8th edition, ISBN: 978-0-87939-831-6)

Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD

- *Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response* (Jones and Bartlett Learning, 5th edition, ISBN: 978-1-284-283051)

OR

Essentials of Fire Fighting (IFSTA, 8th edition, ISBN: 978-087939831-6) & *Hazardous Materials for First Responders*, (IFSTA, 6th Edition, ISBN: 978-0-87939-757-9)

Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland

- *Wildland Firefighter: Principles and Practice* (Jones and Bartlett Learning, revised 2nd edition, ISBN: 978-1-28428-105-7)

Fire Fighter 2A: Structure

- *See Fire Fighter 1A: Structure*

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 \(2025\)](#):

- [Section 4.5: Individual Integrity and Ethics](#)
- [Chapter 11: Fire Fighter Certification Exams](#)
- [Section 11.3: Candidate Types](#)