Certification Exam Overview

This is an overview of the State Fire Training (SFT) Certification Examination process. For a complete guide on the certification exam program visit the SFT Procedures Manual, Chap. 11 for more information.

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

The Fire Fighter 1 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 the Fire Fighter 1 academic training. The three modules are; Fire Fighter 1A: Structure, Fire Fighter 1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD, and Fire Fighter 1C: Wildland FF 1

The Fire Fighter 2 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 (*Reciprocity & Upgrade Candidates only*)
- Training Record and/or signed Skills Sheets from training
- Alternate Delivery Waiver
- SFT Student Course (Exam) Transcript

Test Site Policy

This is a closed-book examination. All materials brought to the examination site must be left in an unmonitored area at your own risk.

Reasonable Accommodations

SFT utilizes accredited testing sites to deliver high-stakes certification exams and these testing sites may review and approve disability-related accommodations on behalf of SFT. Reasonable accommodations are for examinees who meet the requirements per legal obligations, including applicable national laws and regulations. These accommodations are designed to ensure that qualified candidates with disabilities have full access to exams.

Test accommodations are individualized and considered on a case-by-case basis. All candidates requesting accommodations because of a disability must provide appropriate documentation of their condition and how it is expected to affect their ability to take the test under standard conditions. Candidates requiring assistance or accommodation are held to the same exam security and administration procedures as all other candidates.

Cognitive Test Strategy

This is a multiple-choice examination with four choices per question. Examination questions are written to provide only one BEST answer. Unanswered question items will receive zero points. If you are unsure about a particular question, try to answer the question than to leave the question blank.

Plenty of time is provided to answer all examination questions, so be sure to read each question and its four choices completely and carefully before selecting the BEST possible answer to the question.

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.

Skills Exam

7 required skills and 3 random skills.

Contents of the Exam

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.1.01 Gen. Knowledge Req	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.10 Interior Attack
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.2.01 Emergency Resp.	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.11 Horizontal Vent.
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.2.02 Rec. Phone Call	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.12 Vertical Vent.
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.2.03 Radio Comms	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.13 Overhaul
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.2.04 Activate Emerg. Call	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.14 Salvage
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.01 SCBA	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.15 Water Supply
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.02 Scene Response	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.16 Extinguishers
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.03 Scene Control	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.17 Scene Lighting
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.04 Forcible Entry	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.18 Scene Safety
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.05 Exit Hazards	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.19 Ground Fire
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.06 Ground Ladders	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.20 Hoist Knots
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.07 Vehicle Fire	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.21 Air Monitor
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.08 Exterior Fire	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.5.01 Clean & Check Eq.
NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.3.09 Search and Rescue	NFPA: 1001 (2019) 4.5.02 Clean Hose

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:

1. Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Awareness
   25 questions with a time limit of 30 minutes.

2. Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat First Responder Operations
   25 questions with a time limit of 30 minutes.

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.

Contents of the 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 Progr. Eval. & Rep.

NFPA: 470 FRO-MS (2022) 9.2.1 PPE

NFPA: 470 FRO-MS (2022) 9.6.1 Prod. Control

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.

Skills Exam

6 required skills and 2 random skills.

Contents of the Exam

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.8 Patrol Area

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.4.2 Maintain PPE

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.2.1 Gen. Knowledge

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.4.3 Presuppression

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.4.4 Maintain PPE Kit

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.2 Prepare Response

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.3 Recognize Hazard

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.4 Contruct Fireline

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.5 Secure Fireline

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.7 Mop Up Area

NFPA: 1140 (2022) 4.6.6 Reduce Exposure

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.

Skills Exam

2 required skills and 3 random skills.

Contents of the Exam

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.1.1 Gen. Knowledge

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.2.1 Reports

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.2.2 Communications

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.3.1 Liquid Fire

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.3.2 Interior Attack

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.3.3 Flammable Gas

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.3.4 Protect Scene

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.4.1 Extricate Victim

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.4.2 Assist Team

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.5.1 Safety Survey

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.5.2 Present Safety Info

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.5.3 Preincident Survey

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.5.4 Maintain Tools

NFPA: 1001 (2019) 5.5.5 Annual Test

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-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.

> Exception: It is not necessary to verify 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.

Skills Exam

A candidate must successfully complete 100% of the skills on the Certification Exam Skills Summary form and 100% of the skills steps in each scenario to pass the skills exam. 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. 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 skill station will be allowed a second attempt for each failed skill station on the same day as the initial exam using the same skills. The Registered Lead Evaluator will ensure that a Registered 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 skills portion of the exam and may retake the skills exam module one time within one year of the initial exam date.

Retake – Third Attempt (New Skills / Different Day)

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

A candidate who seeks to retake a skills 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 verify 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 skill station may be allowed a final retake attempt for each failed skill station on the same day as the retake skills exam using the same skills. The Registered Lead Evaluator will ensure that a Registered 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 retake skills exam. A candidate who fails the retake skills exam will be advised to seek remedial education before reapplying for additional SFT certification exams.

Skills and Cognitive Remediation

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

After the retraining, the candidate shall obtain the following documentation from the approved instructor:
1. A completed Fire Fighter 1 or 2 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 skills 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: Skills 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.

Sample Questions

Below are two examples of cognitive examination question items. 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.

2. Which of the following is not typically a type of incident to which fire departments respond?
   a. Motor vehicle collisions
   b. Hazardous materials spills
   c. Vicious dogs on the loose*
   d. Emergency medical requests

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

Curriculum and Reference Material

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

- *Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills* <u>and</u> *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
  Either the *Wildland Fire Fighter: Principles and Practice* (Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2nd edition, ISBN: 978-1-284-04211-5) or *Wildland Fire Fighter: Principles and Practice, Revised* (Jones and Bartlett Learning, Revised 2nd edition, ISBN: 978-1-284-28086-9)

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