



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## Fire Fighter 1

### CSTI and IAFF Hazardous Material Equivalency

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Revised: June 2026

#### OVERVIEW

Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP) and Accredited Local Academies (ALA) may use the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) or the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Hazardous Material training and certification to meet the Fire Fighter 1B training and certification exam requirements. Agencies utilizing the CSTI or IAFF training should ensure that candidates are being issued a **Pro Board-accredited** certification in the following levels:

- Hazardous Materials Responder at the Awareness Level
- Hazardous Materials Responder at the Core Operations Level: with Product Control and Personal Protective Equipment Mission Specific Competencies

State Fire Training (SFT) will need to receive confirmation of Pro Board Certification issuance prior to issuing the California Fire Fighter 1 certification to exam candidates who received CSTI or IAFF Hazardous Material certification.

#### ARTP/ALA PROCESS

##### Certification Exam Scheduling

Fire Fighter 1 certification is issued upon successful completion of the Fire Fighter 1 skills and cognitive certification exam. CSTI and IAFF certifications with Pro Board seals can satisfy the Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat FRA/FRO requirement through an equivalency pathway rather than direct SFT testing. Agencies must identify this on the Fire Fighter Exam Request Form to ensure accurate processing and certification issuance. When submitting the Fire Fighter Exam Request Form, select the appropriate CSTI or IAFF equivalency option under the Fire Fighter 1B section.

**TIP:** SFT recommends completing CSTI or IAFF Hazardous Material training and certification before the Fire Fighter 1A and 1C modules. CSTI and IAFF certification confirmation can take up to six weeks to process. Beginning HazMat training and certification early allows this process to be completed while the remaining Fire Fighter 1 curriculum is underway, so that OSFM California Fire Fighter 1 certification can be issued without delay upon completion of all other testing.

##### CSTI / IAFF Equivalency

To utilize the CSTI or IAFF Hazardous Materials equivalency, agencies must indicate this option on the Fire Fighter Exam Request Form. Once the Hazardous Material certification examination is complete and Pro Board certification has been issued, CSTI or IAFF will provide the host site with a certification confirmation letter containing each candidate's name, Pro Board seal number, and certification issue date. SFT receives certification data directly from CSTI and IAFF as they report to the Pro Board, but this data combines multiple testing events. Submitting the



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confirmation letter allows SFT to quickly locate and verify your candidates from that data; agencies that do not submit the letter risk delays in certification issuance. Attach the confirmation letter, along with any other required documentation, to the FF Certification Exam Skills Results Web Form in the SFT User Portal to close out the Fire Fighter 1 certification exam request. SFT will then add the equivalency certification to each candidate's SFT User Portal record, satisfying the Fire Fighter 1B: HazMat FRA/FRO certification examination requirement, before issuing the Fire Fighter 1 certification.