OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

# VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER COURSE PACKET

## Course Admission Requirements, Qualifications for Certification, Course Objectives, and Recommended Hours Guide

## EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2024

### Course Overview

The State of Ohio Certified Volunteer Firefighter Course is an **introductory, awareness-level course** designed to introduce the student to the basic elements of fire ground safety and support operations and to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs), to assist in firefighting support operations with their fire departments. The Ohio Volunteer Firefighter certification is a stand-alone certificate specific to the State of Ohio which **does not meet the minimum** "Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications" established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 as a qualifying level of public safety responder for trained firefighters.

As an awareness-level course, the Ohio Volunteer Firefighter Course is intended to be a foundation upon which firefighters can begin to build their training portfolio. Due to the 36-hour time constraint as set forth in section 4765.55 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Volunteer Firefighter course limits exposures to hazardous environments as described in the Ohio Administrative Code. The course **does not permit** student participation in any instruction involving the type of hazardous environments in which their fire department may operate. Prohibited activities include environments which are considered to be "Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health" (IDLH), including but not limited to, hot zone operations at uncontrolled fires or hazardous materials releases involving fixed structures, mobile equipment, or outdoor areas as well as operation of emergency vehicle apparatus.

Due to the limitations of the Ohio Volunteer Firefighter Course, firefighters certified to the Volunteer Firefighter level shall be provided the additional training necessary to participate in fire department activities that exceed the training provided in the Volunteer Firefighter Course. **The fire chief or the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) is responsible to provide additional proper training in these expanded areas if the firefighter is expected to function safely within an IDLH environment or operate emergency vehicle apparatus. The fire chief acknowledges that he or she shall assume all the risk and liability for deviating from any of the state and/or nationally recognized standards for firefighting.**

### Course Objectives

The Volunteer Firefighter Course Objectives are designed to provide the basic elements of fire ground safety and support operations and are not intended to meet the minimum industry standard for firefighter training as determined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Standard (2019 edition). The hours assigned to each course objective are recommendations based on the needs of Ohio's fire service, within the constraints of the 36-hour maximum course length. Chartered fire training programs may reallocate topic hours to meet student needs so long as all course objectives are met. **However, deviation of more than 25% of the recommended hours must be justified on the course request form.**

Proper documentation of students meeting course objectives is required.

### Course Requirements

The Volunteer Firefighter Course, required to obtain a volunteer firefighter certificate, shall consist of a maximum of thirty-six hours*:

1. The course shall meet the "Volunteer Firefighter Course Objectives" approved by the executive director, with advice and counsel of the Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Subcommittee; and
2. The Volunteer Firefighter Course shall be approved by the executive director prior to delivery.

### Contact Hours

Student contact hours: 50 – 60 minutes = 1 hour; 25 – 30 minutes = ½ hour; full days (0800 – 1600) = 7 hours (assuming 1 hour for lunch unless otherwise documented). Instructional hours may include topic instruction, material review, and testing for knowledge, e.g., quizzes. Instructional hours shall not include practical skill testing, written testing for certification, or instruction on any topic(s) not listed on this guide.

| OHIO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS | | |
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| **STANDARD/ DIRECTIVE** | **O.A.C. REFERENCE** | **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER COURSE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS** |
| N/A | 4765-20-02<br>4765-24-09 | Individuals shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age, except that a chartered fire training program may admit a student who is seventeen (17) years old provided that the student has graduated or is enrolled in the twelfth (12th) or final grade in a secondary school program. |
| N/A | 4765-20-02<br>4765-24-09 | Individuals shall meet all admission requirements established by the chartered fire training program. |
| **STANDARD/ DIRECTIVE** | **O.A.C. REFERENCE** | **QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION** |
| N/A | 4765-20-02 | An applicant for a firefighter certificate shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age. |
| HSPD-5,8 | 4765-20-02 | National Incident Management System ICS 100, or online equivalent. |
| HSPD-5,8 | 4765-20-02 | National Incident Management System IS 700. |
| NFPA 1001 | 4765-20-02 | Successful completion of a volunteer firefighter training course (36 hours) through an Ohio chartered fire training program. |
| N/A | 4765-20-02 | Shall pass the knowledge and practical skills examinations within one hundred eighty (180) days of volunteer firefighter training course completion. |
| N/A | 4765-20-02 | Shall submit a completed application within ninety (90) days of passing the knowledge examination. |
| N/A | 4765-20-02 | Applicants shall have not been convicted of any of the following:<br>(a) Any felony;<br>(b) A misdemeanor committed in the course of practice;<br>(c) A misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. |
| N/A | 4765-20-02 | Applicants shall have not committed fraud, misrepresentation, or material deception in applying for or obtaining a certificate issued under section 4765.55 of the Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 4765-20 of the Ohio Administrative Code. |

| TOPIC | NFPA 1001 Standard | VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER JOB PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS (NFPA 1001) | Cognitive Minutes | Practical Minutes | Total Minutes |
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| Orientation and History of the Fire Service | 4.1.1<br>4.1.2 | **Cognitive:**<br>Summarize the history of the fire service; Explain the organizational characteristics, cultural challenges, and cultural strengths that influence the fire service; Describe the mission of the fire service; Describe the organization of the fire department; Distinguish among functions of fire companies; Summarize primary knowledge and skills the firefighter must have to function effectively; Distinguish among the primary roles of fire service personnel; Describe fire department organizational principles; Locate information in departmental documents and standard or code material; Distinguish between fire department SOPs and rules and regulations; Explain the ways the fire service may interact with other organizations; Describe the characteristics of the Incident Command System; Describe how to function in the Incident Command System. | 70 | 0 | 70 |
| Fire Service Communications | 4.2.1<br>4.2.2<br>4.2.3<br>4.2.4 | **Cognitive:**<br>Explain the procedures for receiving emergency and nonemergency external communications; Describe the information required to dispatch emergency services; Describe the systems used for internal communications; Explain radio limitations that may impact internal communications; Describe radio procedures used for internal communications; Handle emergency and nonemergency calls.<br>**Practical:**<br>Use portable radio for routine and emergency traffic. | 20 | 10 | 30 |
| Fire Behavior | 4.3.10<br>4.3.11<br>4.3.12 | **Cognitive:**<br>Explain the science of fire as it relates to energy, forms of ignition, and models of combustion; Describe the impact of thermal energy on heat, temperature, and heat transfer; Recognize the physical states of fuel; Explain the relationship between oxygen content and life safety; Identify the products of self-sustained chemical reactions; Explain the factors that affect fire development; Recognize signs, causes, and effects of rapid fire development; Describe the methods through which firefighting operations can influence fire behavior. | 50 | 0 | 50 |
| Building Construction | 4.3.4<br>4.3.10<br>4.3.12 | **Cognitive:**<br>Describe the impact of fire on common building materials; Explain the impact of fire on construction classifications; List the main types of occupancy classifications; Describe the basic construction of building components. | 40 | 0 | 40 |
| Personal Protective Equipment and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus | 4.1.2<br>4.3.1<br>4.5.1 | **Cognitive:**<br>Describe the purpose of personal protective equipment; Describe characteristics of each type of personal protective equipment; Summarize guidelines for the care of personal protective clothing; Explain the safety considerations for PPE; Identify respiratory hazards; Identify types of respiratory protection equipment; Describe the limitations of respiratory protection equipment; Explain the methods for storing respiratory protection equipment; Describe general donning and doffing considerations for protective breathing apparatus; Summarize general considerations for protective breathing apparatus inspections and care; Summarize safety precautions for refilling SCBA cylinders; Explain procedures for replacing SCBA cylinders; Explain safety precautions for SCBA use; Describe nonemergency and emergency exit indicators; Describe nonemergency exit techniques.<br>**Practical:**<br>Demonstrate the method for donning structural personal protective clothing for use at an emergency; With structural personal protective clothing in place, demonstrate the over-the-head, coat, and seated methods for donning a SCBA; Doff PPE including respiratory protection and prepare for reuse; Demonstrate the steps for inspecting a SCBA; Demonstrate the steps for cleaning and sanitizing a SCBA. | PPE<br>50<br><br>SCBA<br>60 | PPE<br>90<br><br>SCBA<br>120 | PPE<br>140<br><br>SCBA<br>180 |

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| Response Safety | 4.1.1<br>4.3.2<br>4.3.3<br>4.3.17 | **Cognitive:**<br>Discuss the safety considerations for riding fire apparatus; Explain the importance of remaining seated with seat belts fastened in reducing the possibility of serious injury or death if involved in an accident; Discuss safe driving practices; Explain the potential hazards involved in operating on emergency scenes including vehicle traffic, utilities, and environmental conditions; Describe the proper procedures for dismounting the apparatus in traffic; Explain the procedures for safe operation at emergency scenes; Identify protective equipment available for member's safety at designated emergency and work zones; Discuss the importance of situational awareness on the emergency scene for firefighter safety and survival.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Demonstrate correctly mounting and dismounting an apparatus when simulating response to an incident. | 30 | 20 | 50 |
| Forcible Entry | 4.3.4<br>4.5.1 | **Cognitive:**<br>Explain the basic principles of forcible entry; Describe the basic construction of locksets; Describe considerations a firefighter must take when using a forcible entry tool; Indicate steps needed to care for and maintain forcible entry tools; Explain considerations a firefighter must take when forcing entry through various types of windows and covers; Describe forcible entry methods for breaching walls and floors; Indicate methods for forcing fences and gates.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Demonstrate ways to force entry through various types of doors; Identify considerations that need to be taken when forcing entry through locks, padlocks, overhead doors, and fire doors; Demonstrate forcible entry methods used for windows; Demonstrate forcible entry methods for breaching walls and floors; Clean, inspect, and maintain hand tools, power tools and equipment. | 60 | 120 | 180 |
| Firefighter Survival | 4.3.5<br>4.3.9 | **Cognitive:**<br>Explain firefighter survival methods; Explain what survival actions firefighters can take when needed; Describe the actions of a Rapid Intervention Team when locating a downed firefighter.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Demonstrate the actions required for transmitting a MAYDAY report; Demonstrate the proper procedures for a SCBA air emergency; Demonstrate the actions required for withdrawing from a hostile environment with a hoseline; Demonstrate low profile maneuvers without removing SCBA; Demonstrate the method for breaching an interior wall; Demonstrate the steps for disentangling from debris or wires. | 40 | 10 | 50 |
| Ladders | 4.3.6<br>4.5.1<br>4.3.12 | **Cognitive:**<br>Describe different construction types of ground ladders; Identify the parts of a ladder including markings and labels; Recognize the types of ladders used in the fire service; Explain the considerations addressed by ladder inspection, cleaning, and maintenance; Describe safety guidelines used when handling ladders; Explain considerations taken when selecting, lifting, and lowering a ladder; Identify basic considerations and requirements for ground ladder placement.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Demonstrate the various methods of carrying a ladder; Demonstrate the various methods for raising and lowering a ground ladder; Compare procedures for moving a ground ladder; Demonstrate the methods for securing a ground ladder; Describe ladder climbing considerations; Demonstrate what methods can be used to work from a ladder; Demonstrate methods used for assisting a victim down a ladder; Clean, inspect, and maintain a ladder. | 60 | 180 | 240 |

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| Search and Rescue | 4.2.4<br>4.3.1 | **Cognitive:**<br>Summarize the impact of building construction and floor plans on structural search techniques; Explain size-up and situational awareness considerations during structural searches; Summarize safety guidelines for structural search and rescue; Differentiate between primary and secondary search techniques; Recognize basic search methods. | 40 | 0 | 40 |
| Hose Deployment | 4.3.8<br>4.3.10<br>4.3.15<br>4.3.19<br>4.5.2 | **Cognitive:**<br>Explain basic fire hose characteristics; Describe different causes of and prevention methods for hose damage; Identify basic inspection, care, and maintenance methods for fire hose; Compare various uses for hose appliances and tools; Recognize different methods for handling hoselines; Describe the various methods of advancing a hoseline; List the considerations that can impact operating attack hoselines; Explain the way vaporization and stream relate to the extinguishment properties of water; Identify the factors that create pressure loss or gain; Describe the impact water hammer has on fire streams and prevention of water hammer; Explain fire stream patterns and their possible limiting factors; Describe the three types of fire stream nozzles; Compare the different types of nozzle control valves; Describe the factors in operating and maintaining handline nozzles. Describe steps taken when supporting fire protection systems at protected structures; Describe the characteristics of the various master stream devices; Explain considerations when deploying, supplying, and staffing master streams.<br><br>**Practical (Describe and perform):**<br>**Hose Basics:** Couple and uncouple hose; Make a straight hose roll & doughnut hose roll; Advance a hose load; Extend a hoseline; Operate a fog-stream, broken-stream, and solid stream nozzle; Replace a burst section of hose.<br>**Hose Loads:** Make a flat, accordion, horseshoe, pre-connected, triple-layer, and minuteman hose load.<br>**Hose Lays:** Make a forward and reverse hose lay; Deploy a wye-equipped hose during a reverse lay.<br>**Hoseline Advance into a Structure:** Advance a charged line into a structure (1) using the line drag, (2) up and down an interior stairway, (3) up a ladder into a window.<br>**Advance a Hoseline from a Standpipe:** Connect to a standpipe and advance an attack line onto a floor.<br>**Operate a Charged Hoseline:** (1) Operate a charged hoseline from a ladder, (2) a one-firefighter attack line, (3) a one-firefighter large hoseline (exposure protection), (4) two-firefighter operation of a large attack line.<br>**Connect to a Fire Department Connection:** Connect supply hose to a fire department connection.<br>**Supply a Master Stream Device:** Deploy and operate a portable master stream device.<br>**Hose Testing:** Service test a fire hose. | 120 | 240 | 360 |

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| Ventilation | 4.3.11<br>4.3.12<br>4.5.1 | **Cognitive:**<br>Describe reasons for ventilation; Identify considerations that affect the decision to ventilate; Explain the critical fire behavior indicators present during ventilation; Define horizontal and vertical ventilation; Explain the means of achieving horizontal and vertical ventilation; Describe the types of horizontal and vertical ventilation; Explain the effects of building systems on ventilation; List the tactical priorities in structural firefighting operations and how the tactical priorities affect ventilation; Describe ventilation using mechanical positive and negative pressure as well as hydraulic ventilation.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Perform the following: sound a roof, use a power saw to cut an opening, use an axe to cut an opening, make a trench cut using a rotary saw. | 50 | 90 | 140 |
| Salvage and Overhaul | 4.3.13<br>4.3.14 | **Cognitive:**<br>Explain ways to recognize obvious signs of the area of origin; Describe the relationship between fire cause classifications and cause determination; Recognize signs of arson; Describe the importance of preserving evidence; Explain techniques for preserving evidence;<br>Explain the philosophy of loss control; Describe the ways pre-incident planning impacts loss control; Determine appropriate salvage procedures; Compare and contrast different types of salvage covers; Explain ways to fold, roll, spread, and improvise with salvage covers; Describe ways to cover openings during salvage operations; Explain methods used to maintain fire safety during overhaul; Explain ways to recognize and preserve area of origin or signs of arson, and reasons for protection of the fire scene.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Roll a salvage cover for a one firefighter spread; Fold a salvage cover for a one firefighter spread; Fold a salvage cover for a two-firefighter spread and a balloon throw; Demonstrate the ability to cluster furniture. | Salvage<br>30<br><br>Overhaul<br>30 | Salvage<br>60<br><br>Overhaul<br>0 | Salvage<br>90<br><br>Overhaul<br>30 |
| Water Supply | 4.3.15 | **Cognitive:**<br>Explain the ways water supply systems components are used by firefighters; Describe types of fire hydrants and hydrant markings; Explain fire hydrant operation and inspection considerations; Explain alternative water supply sources and methods of access; Describe methods used for rural water supply operations.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Connect supply hose to a hydrant using forward and reverse hydrant lays; Draft from a static water source; Deploy portable water tanks. | 60 | 120 | 180 |
| Portable Fire Extinguishers | 4.3.16 | **Cognitive:**<br>Explain portable fire extinguisher classifications; Describe types of portable fire extinguishers; Define the ratings in a portable fire extinguisher rating system; Explain the considerations taken when selecting and using portable fire extinguishers; Identify procedures used for the inspection, care, and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Transport fire extinguisher to location of the fire; Extinguish a Class A fire with a stored-pressure water-type fire extinguisher; Extinguish a Class A fire with a multipurpose dry-chemical fire extinguisher; Extinguish a Class B flammable liquid fire with a dry-chemical fire extinguisher; Extinguish a Class B flammable liquid fire with a stored-pressure foam fire extinguisher; Operate a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher; Operate a wet chemical fire extinguisher. | 40 | 90 | 130 |

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| Scene Safety | 4.3.17<br>4.3.18 | **Cognitive:**<br>Describe general guidelines for operating safely at various types of emergency scenes; Explain the importance of personnel accountability systems; List the properties, principles, and safety concerns for electricity, gas, and water systems; Explain the methods for utility disconnect and associated dangers; Describe the use of required safety equipment.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Demonstrate utility control. | 20 | 20 | 40 |
| Ropes and Knots | 4.3.20<br>4.5.1 | **Cognitive:**<br>Compare and contrast the characteristics of life safety rope and utility rope; Summarize basic guidelines for rope maintenance; Explain reasons for placing rope out of service; Describe webbing and webbing construction; Describe parts of a rope and considerations in tying a knot; Describe knot characteristics and knot elements; Describe characteristics of knots commonly used in the fire service; Select commonly used rope hardware for specific applications; Summarize hoisting safety considerations.<br><br>**Practical:**<br>Inspect, clean, and store rope.<br>**Tie the following**: overhand knot, bowline, clove hitch, clove hitch around an object, rescue knot, figure-eight, figure-eight bend, figure-eight on a bight, figure-eight follow through, Becket bend, water knot<br>**Hoist the following**: axe, pike pole, roof ladder, dry hoseline, charged hoseline, power saw. | 30 | 90 | 120 |
| **TOTAL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER HOURS (NFPA 1001)** | | | **15** | **21** | **36** |