




VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER



“Firefighter” means an individual who holds a certificate as a volunteer firefighter, firefighter I, or firefighter II, issued by the chief executive officer of the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services pursuant to section 4765.55 of the Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 4765-20 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Certification is required by section 3737.66 of the Ohio Revised Code.

QUESTIONS?

 800-233-0785

 EMSFireEducation@dps.ohio.gov

More information:
ems.ohio.gov

Initial Certification Requirements

A Volunteer Firefighter applicant shall:

- Be at least 18 years of age to receive certification.
- Successfully complete National Incident Management System IS-700 and ICS-100, or online equivalent.
- Successfully complete the required 36-hour training course through an Ohio chartered fire training program.
- Pass the knowledge and practical skills examinations within 180 days of completing the training course.
- Submit a completed application within 90 days of passing the knowledge examination.
- Pass a criminal history review.
(NOTE: If an applicant has a prior criminal conviction(s), he/she may undergo a criminal conviction review determination. For more information, please email the Division of EMS Investigative Services at emsinvestigations@dps.ohio.gov or call 614-466-9447.)

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.

Training Course Overview

36 *hours*

The Volunteer Firefighter Course is an introductory, awareness-level course designed to introduce the student to the basic elements of fireground 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 Ohio and 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 instruction involving the hazardous environments in which their fire department may operate.

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Test Eligibility

A student must complete all portions of a certification course, both classroom and practical (*please see: <https://ems.ohio.gov/certifications/fire-service/initial-certification/initial-certification>*), to be eligible for testing and certification. It is the responsibility of the chartered fire training program director to ensure every student meets all attendance and skill requirements.

Computer-Based Linear Tests

- The examination is delivered as a computer-based, fixed length, linear examination.
- Candidates can skip items, mark items for review, and go back and change their answers provided time has not expired.
- There is no penalty for guessing.
- Items left blank are scored as incorrect.

Volunteer Firefighter Examination

- 70 items
- Normal time limit: 1 hour, 45 minutes

Minimum required passing score:

70%

Written Examination Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) allows for reasonable and appropriate accommodations for individuals with documented disabilities who demonstrate a need for accommodations.

- Candidates requesting accommodations for the written component of the examination should contact the training program director for copies of the Examination Accommodations Policy.
- Test accommodations are individualized and considered on a case-by-case basis. Consequently, no single type of test accommodation (e.g., extra time) would necessarily be appropriate for all individuals with disabilities.
- Specific test accommodations should be related to the functional limitations. It is essential that the documentation of the disability provide a clear explanation of the current functional limitation(s) and a rationale for each requested test accommodation. A student should work with program directors and instructors who know him/her to determine which test accommodation(s) is/are appropriate.
- To ensure adequate time to evaluate ADA requests, the accommodations request and all required documentation must be received by the Division of EMS at least 30 days prior to the examination date request.

Ohio Department of Public Safety employees may be consulted as to whether an accommodation is reasonable given program requirements and structure. The Division of EMS is not compelled to make accommodations which would fundamentally alter the nature of the training or compromise the certification process.