

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE STANDARDS COUNCIL



BASIC & ADVANCED MARINE FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

(March, 2006)

Fire Standards Council
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State of Alaska
Basic and Advanced
Marine Firefighter Certification Program

Background

In the early 1970's Fire Service Training developed a Combination Marine Shipboard Firefighting curriculum. This training curriculum was based on the requirements of the US Coast Guard and associated marine fire training entities. This program was also based on the NFPA guideline "Marine Shipboard Firefighting for Land Based Firefighters". Since the inception of that program the Training and Education Bureau has provided this certification to marine firefighters across that state.

Due to changes in the maritime industry the Training and Education Bureau (TEB) has separated the "combination" course into two individual programs. These programs are Basic Marine Firefighter and Advanced Marine Firefighter. Additionally considerable modification was done to the curriculum and elements of each program to meet these changes. In 2003 Fire Service Training (now Training and Education Bureau) received approval and certification from the US Coast Guard to teach these courses and certify individuals at these levels. Both the Basic and Advanced are STCW approved.

Certification at each of these levels involves the successful completion of both a written exam and a practical skill exam. These exams are conducted and monitored by a TEB trained Certifying Officer.

Presently these training programs are managed out of the Southeast Fire Training Office. The Basic Marine program may only be conducted at the Hagevig Regional Fire Training Center. The Advanced Marine class is not site specific and may be conducted elsewhere. It is anticipated that in the future these programs will also have approval from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

Certification Program

This certification program includes two levels; Basic Marine Firefighter, and Advanced Marine Firefighter.

Based on the requirements of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and STCW, a Basic Marine Firefighter is a person who has demonstrated the knowledge and skills necessary to function safely and effectively as an integral member of a marine firefighting team. When engaged in hazardous activities, the Basic Marine Firefighter works under direct supervision. This course is 50% hands on training, and 50% classroom training.

Based on the requirements of the IMO and STCW, an Advanced Marine Firefighter is a person who has demonstrated the skills and depth of knowledge necessary to function under general supervision and provided general leadership direction to members of the marine firefighting team. This person will function safely and effectively as an leader of a team of equally or less experienced firefighters to accomplish a series of tasks. When engaged in hazardous activities, the Advanced Marine Firefighter maintains direct communication. This course has some practical elements but these are all conducted in the classroom.

This certification program has been approved by the Alaska Fire Standards Council

Requirements for Marine Firefighter Certification

Basic Marine Firefighter

- a. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
- b. Applicant must have completed the USCG approved TEB Basic Marine Firefighter curriculum.
- c. Applicant must have completed the USCG approved TEB written and practical exams for Basic Marine Firefighter. (Written exam score must be at least 70%)

Advanced Marine Firefighter

- a. Applicant must be a certified Basic Marine Firefighter.
- b. Applicant must have completed the USCG approved TEB Advanced Marine Firefighter curriculum.
- c. Applicant must have completed the USCG approved TEB written and practical exams for Advanced Marine Firefighter. (Written exam score must be at least 70%)

Approved Marine Firefighter Training Courses

To take the certification exam for either Marine Firefighter level, applicants must have completed a TEB approved training course. Presently these courses are only available through the Training and Education. Applicants will not receive State of Alaska Marine Firefighter Certification unless they have completed the TEB required training course. Presently the Basic course may only be taught at the Hagevig Regional Fire Training Center. The Advanced course may be conducted in other locations.

These TEB courses require 100% attendance. Applicants must also either be sponsored by a local Fire Department or must have a completed Physical Ability form signed by a doctor. Students must also furnish identification prior to the course.

Testing Elements for Certification

All applicants for certification must complete both a written and practical examination after completing the approved training course. The written exam for each level is 50 multiple choice questions based on the information delivered in the course. The practical exam for each level follows the USCG approved skill sheets for each level.

Personal Background Checks

A background check is not required for certification as a Marine Firefighter.

Re-certification

There is no expiration period for either Basic or Advance Marine Firefighter. It is anticipated that the certified marine firefighter will continue to maintain their training and education so as to keep their skills at the same level, or above, as on their certification date. Certification at this level is similar to either a high school or college degree. It simply states that at that particular time the applicant had completed all the requirements for certification at that level.

Reciprocity/Challenge

Presently there is no reciprocity or challenge method for either Basic or Advanced Marine Firefighter.

IFSAC Certification

Presently IFSAC certification is not available for Marine Firefighter.