

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
FIRE STANDARDS COUNCIL



**RAPID INTERVENTION TECHNICIAN
&
RAPID INTERVENTION TECHNICIAN
INSTRUCTOR
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

Fire Standards Council
Department of Public Safety
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907)269-5052

www.alaskafiretraining.com

Rapid Intervention Technician (RIT) Certification Program

Background

Based on the requirements of NFPA 1500 and the OSHA requirement for providing a Rapid Intervention Team for fire incidents, the Training and Education Bureau developed a certification program for team members. This program involves certification as a Rapid Intervention Technician (RIT), and certification as a Rapid Intervention Technician instructor.

Due to critical nature of this program and some of the skills required, the Training and Education Bureau (TEB) will only allow certification at this level if authorized instructors are used to conduct the program. There continues to be a great deal of controversy across the United States regarding this program and the skills learned within it. The Training and Education Bureau believes that this training and these skills should be required for any RIT team member or responding firefighter. The Alaska Fire Standards Council has approved this curriculum and the associated objectives as the state standard for certification at this level.

Program Curriculum

The Training and Education Bureau has approved a curriculum for this certification program. The curriculum is called "Rapid Intervention Technician". The curriculum was developed by Brian Davis, Scott Raygor, and Tod Chambers. The curriculum uses as it's basis the Illinois Fire Service Institute program, with additional input from Rick Lasky, John Norman, Bill Manning, and Jay Olson. Currently this is the only approved curriculum used for certification at this level. Only State of Alaska certified Rapid Intervention Technician Instructors are approved to provide training for certification at this level. This program curriculum has been approved by the Alaska Fire Standards Council.

Certification Program

The RIT certification program includes two levels.

Rapid Intervention Technician: designed for those individuals who may be required to function as a team member on their department's rapid intervention team. Certification at this level requires that the applicant complete the TEB approved RIT certification course, and complete the required practical and written examinations.

RIT Instructor: designed for those individuals who are selected by the Training and Education Bureau to conduct a RIT certification course. Certification at this level is open only to those individuals selected by TEB who are already RIT certified, are already a TEB certified Fire Service Instructor, and have completed the approved RIT Instructor training program.

Basic Requirements for RIT or RIT Instructor Certification

Rapid Intervention Technician

- a. At the minimum the applicant must be certified at the Firefighter I level.
- b. Applicant must complete the TEB approved RIT training course.
- c. Applicant must complete the TEB written and practical exams for Rapid Intervention Technician.

Rapid Intervention Technician Instructor

- a. At the minimum the applicant must be a TEB certified Level I Fire Service Instructor.
- b. Applicant must be TEB RIT certified.
- c. Applicant must be selected by TEB to attend the instructor training course.
- d. Applicant must complete the TEB approved RIT Instructor course.

Approved RIT Training Courses

The Fire Standards Council will only grant certification at this level to those individuals who have completed the TEB approved program, utilizing TEB certified instructors. This training course utilizes special training props and techniques not normally used in other programs. Due to the particular difficulty in conducting this course in a safe and competent manner, the Training and Education Bureau has not approved other similar courses for certification. Applicants interested in certification must attend the TEB approved course.

Departments interested in sponsoring a RIT course should contact the Training and Education Bureau. To conduct an approved course departments must use TEB training instructors who will utilize the approved curriculum.

RIT Instructor Courses

To prepare instructors for conducting the RIT courses, the Training and Education Bureau will offer RIT Instructor training courses. Generally these courses will be held for one day, immediately following a full RIT course. Students for these instructor training courses will be selected by TEB following recommendations from their Fire Chief or Training Officer. In these courses the student will learn how to safely and correctly conduct a RIT certification course. Students will also learn the TEB requirements for conducting a RIT certification course.

Testing Elements for Certification

All applicants for certification must complete both a written and practical examination. These examinations will be conducted during and at the end of each certification course. The written exam will include 50 multiple choice questions and must be passed with a 70%. The practical exam will follow the approved RIT certification skill sheets developed by TEB.

Prerequisites

A student must be certified at least at the Firefighter I level before attending a RIT training course. The prerequisites for RIT Instructor are listed under the above certification requirements.

Re-certification

Certification as a RIT Instructor follows the same certification dates as Fire Service Instructor. It is up to the instructor to keep track of their own certification dates.

Certification at the RIT level does not expire. It is up to the certified individual to maintain the skills at an adequate level.

Reciprocity/Challenge

Certification at the RIT or RIT Instructor level will only be issued to individuals who have completed the required TEB training course. Reciprocity and/or challenge are not available for either of these levels.