

FIRE FIGHTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 26, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
4800 N. Lamar Boulevard, North Lamar Boulevard Bldg., Room 140, Austin, Texas

The Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting will be held in person at the location above.

- 1. Roll call and excuse of absences, if any, of committee members.**
- 2. Adoption of the June 20, 2024, Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting minutes.**
- 3. Discussion and possible action on the rule review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 403, Criminal Convictions and Eligibility for Certification.**
- 4. Discussion and possible action on the rule review of 37 TAC, Chapter 421, Standards for Certification.**
- 5. Discussion on cancer and mental health related to the Texas Fire Service.**
- 6. Continued discussion regarding the injury report and reporting collaboration between agencies as mentioned in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 419.**
- 7. Subjects for future agenda items.**
- 8. Future meeting dates.**
- 9. Adjourn meeting.**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 1

1. Roll call and excuse of absences, if any, of committee members.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 2 WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

2. Adoption of the June 20, 2024, Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting minutes **(please see attached)**.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION

Presiding officer Daniel DeYear called the June 20, 2024, meeting of the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee to order at 10:03 a.m. at the North Lamar Boulevard Building, 4800 N. Lamar Boulevard, in Austin, Texas.

Member Attendance:

Vince Abrigo	Daniel Anderson	Keith Schmidt	Jim Reidy*
Denial Buford	Antonio Ramos	Daniel DeYear	

*Excused absence

Staff present:

Frank King	Amanda Khan	Cliff Grant	Holden Wenger
Rick Wallace	Joyce Guinn	Kenneth Barnett	Grace Wilson

1. Roll Call – Secretary, Keith Schmidt called roll, and a quorum was present.

2. Adoption of minutes – A motion was made by Daniel Buford and seconded by Antonio Ramos to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2023, Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting. The motion carried.

3. Election of committee officers –

A motion was made by Daniel Buford and seconded by Keith Schmidt to nominate Daniel DeYear for committee chair. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Vince Abrigo and seconded by Daniel DeYear to nominate Daniel Buford as committee vice chair. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Vince Abrigo and seconded by Keith Schmidt to nominate Antonio Ramos as committee secretary. The motion carried.

4. Discussion and possible action on the injury report – The committee made the following recommendations:

- Set aside one page in the injury report for mental health and reportable lost time due to mental health injury. Reference HB 2143, 86th legislature. Even if this year that section on the page is without data, it is a reminder of an acceptable item for departments to report.
A motion was made by Daniel Anderson and seconded by Vince Abrigo to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.
- An actual mandate for the Commission by rule for injury reporting to the agency regardless of whether it goes to workman's comp or not. Review and comply with 435.23, Fire Department Personnel Injuries. (They want to make it quantifiable)

A motion was made by Daniel Buford and seconded by Antonio Ramos to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.

- Develop a tracking system (create a process) for the agency to collect and track self-reported injuries for former fire protection personnel.

A motion was made by Daniel Anderson and seconded by Keith Schmidt to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.

- Continue to review and practice roadway safety and traffic incident management practices.

A motion was made by Antonio Ramos and seconded by Daniel Buford to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.

- Review all your department's SOPs with a focus on injury prevention, emphasizing skills training and wellness/fitness in the SOPs.

A motion was made by Daniel Buford and seconded by Vince Abrigo to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.

- NFPA 1851: Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting as required by state law.

A motion was made by Vince Abrigo and seconded by Daniel Anderson to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.

5. Discussion and possible action on 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 469, Technical Rescue – A motion was made by Kieth Schmidt and seconded by Daniel Buford to approve Chapter 469 with the deletion of 469.7 and 469.207. The motion carried.

6. Update on Fire Fighter Advisory Committee vacancies and selection process – An update was delivered by Deputy Chief of Professional Standards, Cliff Grant. Amanda agreed to send the brief Chapter 463 constructed by Frank King, General Counsel.

7. Subjects for future meeting agenda items – The committee would like to continue the discussion regarding cancer and mental health on the next agenda. The committee would also like to discuss the injury report and reporting collaboration between agencies as mentioned in 419.

8. Future meeting dates – The following dates were set as tentative dates and times: September 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. and December 5, 2024, and 10:00 a.m.

9. Recognition of committee member Keith Schmidt for his service – Daniel DeYear recognized Keith Schmidt for his service to the committee and the Commission and presented him with a plaque.

10. Adjourn meeting – A motion was made by Daniel Buford and seconded by Antonio Ramos to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

X

Daniel DeYear
Presiding Officer

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3 WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

3. Discussion and possible action on the rule review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 403, Criminal Convictions and Eligibility for Certification **(please see attached)**.

TITLE 37 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS**PART 13 TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION****CHAPTER 403 CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATION****§403.1 Purpose**

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to establish policy, procedures and criteria on the eligibility of persons with a criminal conviction for a certificate or renewal of a certificate issued by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (the commission) and to establish procedures for suspension, probation, revocation, or denial of a certificate held or applied for by persons with a criminal conviction pursuant to Chapter 53, Texas Occupations Code.

(b) The duties and responsibilities of persons who hold certifications issued by the commission each involve matters that directly relate to public safety, specifically to the reduction of loss of life and property from fire. Thus, conduct involving the injury to a person or the destruction of property by fire, relates directly to the fitness of the individual to be fire protection personnel. Fire protection personnel often have access to areas not generally open to the public. The public relies on the honesty, trustworthiness, and reliability of persons certified by the commission. Thus, crimes involving moral turpitude, including, but not limited to, fraud and dishonesty, are directly relevant. In addition, the ability of such persons to function unimpaired by alcohol or the illegal use of drugs, in dangerous or potentially dangerous circumstances, including, but not limited to, the operation of emergency vehicles is paramount in light of the duty to protect the health and safety of the public.

§403.3 Scope

(a) The policy and procedures established in this chapter apply to a person who holds or applies for any certificate issued under the commission's regulatory authority contained in Government Code, Chapter 419.

(b) When a person is convicted of a crime of a sexual nature, the conviction of which would require the individual to be registered as a sex offender under Chapter 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; or

(c) When a person is convicted of a crime that is an offense under Title 7 of the Texas Penal Code, or a similar offense under the laws of the United States of America, another state, or another jurisdiction, the person's conduct directly relates to the competency and reliability of the person to assume and discharge the responsibilities of fire protection personnel. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, intentional or knowing conduct, without a legal privilege, which causes or is intended to cause a fire or explosion with the intent to injure or kill any person or animal or to destroy or damage any property. The commission may:

(1) deny a person the opportunity to be examined for a certificate;

(2) deny the application for a certificate;

(3) grant the application for a new certificate with the condition that a probated suspension be placed on the newly granted certificate;

(4) refuse to renew a certificate;

(5) suspend, revoke, or probate the suspension or revocation of an existing certificate; or

(6) limit the terms or practice of a certificate holder to areas prescribed by the commission.

(d) When a person's criminal conviction of a felony or misdemeanor directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the holder of a certificate issued by the commission, the commission may:

(1) deny a person the opportunity to be examined for a certificate;

(2) deny the application for a certificate;

(3) grant the application for a new certificate with the condition that a probated suspension be placed on the newly granted certificate;

(4) refuse to renew a certificate;

(5) suspend, revoke, or probate the suspension or revocation of an existing certificate; or

(6) limit the terms or practice of a certificate holder to areas prescribed by the commission.

§403.5 Access to Criminal History Record Information

(a) Criminal history record. The commission is entitled to obtain criminal history record information maintained by the Department of Public Safety, or another law enforcement agency to investigate the eligibility of a person applying to the commission for or holding a certificate.

(b) Confidentiality of information. All information received under this section is confidential and may not be released to any person outside the agency except in the following instances:

(1) a court order;

(2) with written consent of the person being investigated;

(3) in a criminal proceeding; or

(4) in a hearing conducted under the authority of the commission.

(c) Early review. A regulated entity that employs a person regulated by the commission, a person seeking to apply for a beginning position with a regulated entity, a volunteer fire department, or an individual participating in the commission certification program may seek the early review under this chapter of the person's present fitness to be certified. Prior to completing the requirements for certification, the individual may request such a review in writing by following the required procedure. A decision by the commission based on an early review does not bind the commission if there is a change in circumstances. The following pertains to early reviews:

(1) The commission will complete its review and notify the requestor in writing concerning potential eligibility or ineligibility within 90 days following receipt of all required and necessary information for the review.

(2) A notification by the commission regarding the results of an early review is not a guarantee of certification, admission to any training program, or employment with a local government.

(3) A fee assessed by the commission for conducting an early review will be in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of conducting the review process, as provided in §437.19 of this title (relating to Early Review Fees).

(4) An early review request will be considered incomplete until the requestor submits all required ^{and} necessary information. Early review requests that remain incomplete for 90 days following receipt of the initial request will expire. If the request expires and an early review is still desired, a new request and fee must be submitted.

§403.7 Criminal Convictions Guidelines

(a) The following crimes are considered to relate directly to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of persons certified by the commission:

(1) offenses under the Government Code, Chapter 419, relating to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection;

(2) offenses under the Texas Transportation Code Title 6 Roadways, which are punishable by fines greater than \$200, or imprisonment, or both fine and imprisonment;

(3) offenses under the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, concerning controlled substances;

(4) offenses under the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 483, concerning dangerous drugs;

(5) offenses under the following titles of the Texas Penal Code:

(A) Title 5--offenses against the person;

(B) Title 6--offenses against the family;

(C) Title 7--offenses against property;

(D) Title 8--offenses against public administration;

(E) Title 9--offenses against public order and decency;

(F) Title 10--offenses against public health, safety and morals;

(G) Title 11--offenses involving organized crime; and

(H) Title 4--inchoate offenses Chapter 15 preparatory offenses to any of the offenses in this section;

(6) the offenses listed in this subsection are not inclusive, in that the commission may consider other particular crimes in special cases in order to promote the intent of the statutes administered by the commission.

(b) In all cases the commission shall consider:

(1) the nature and seriousness of the crime;

(2) the relationship of the crime to the purposes for requiring the certificate issued by the commission;

(3) the extent to which the certificate might offer an opportunity to engage in further criminal activity of the same type as that in which the person previously had been involved;

(4) the relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, or fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the certificate holder;

(5) the level and nature of supervision of the person by others; and

(6) the level and nature of access to public, commercial, and residential properties, including access after regular business hours and access to areas not open to the general public.

§403.9 Mitigating Factors

(a) In addition to the factors that must be considered under §403.7 of this title (relating to Criminal Convictions Guidelines), in determining the present fitness of a person who has been convicted of a crime, the commission shall consider the following evidence:

- (1) the extent and nature of the person's past criminal activity;
- (2) the age of the person at the time of the commission of the crime;
- (3) the amount of time that has elapsed since the person's last criminal activity;
- (4) the conduct and work activity of the person prior to and following the criminal activity;
- (5) evidence of the person's rehabilitation or rehabilitative effort while incarcerated or following release; and
- (6) other evidence of the person's present fitness, including letters of recommendation from:

(A) prosecution, law enforcement, and correctional officers who prosecuted, arrested, or had custodial responsibility for the person;

(B) the sheriff or chief of police in the community where the person resides; and

(C) any other persons in contact with the convicted person.

(b) It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to the extent possible to secure and provide to the commission as required the recommendations of prosecution, law enforcement, and correctional authorities as required by statute and these rules upon request by the commission staff. The applicant shall upon request also furnish:

- (1) a copy of the indictment, information or complaint;
- (2) a copy of the judgement(s) or order(s) of the court adjudicating guilt, granting probation, community supervision, deferred adjudication, or discharge from probation or community supervision;
- (3) a record of steady employment in the form of a letter from current or former employers;
- (4) a record that the applicant has supported his or her dependents in the form of a letter from a person in the applicant's community with personal knowledge of the circumstances;
- (5) evidence that the applicant has paid all outstanding court costs, supervision fees, fines, and restitution as may have been ordered in all criminal cases in which he or she has been convicted, in the form of copies of official records, documents, or a letter from the person's probation or parole officer where applicable concerning his or her current status; and
- (6) a copy of the police or offense report(s).

§403.11 Procedures for Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of a Certificate to Persons with Criminal Backgrounds

- (a) If the commission proposes to suspend, revoke, limit, or deny a certificate based on the criteria in this chapter, the commission shall notify the individual per Government Code, Chapter 2001. The notice of intended action shall specify the facts or conduct alleged to warrant the intended action.
- (b) If the proposed action is to limit, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a current certificate, or deny an application for a new certificate, a written notice of intended action shall comply with the preliminary notice requirements of Government Code §2001.054(c). The individual may request, in writing, an informal conference with the commission staff in order to show compliance with all requirements of law for the retention of the certificate, pursuant to Government Code §2001.054(c). A written request for an informal staff conference must be submitted to the division director no later than 15 days after the date of the notice of intended action. If the informal staff conference does not result in an agreed consent order, a formal hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code, Chapter 2001.
- (c) If the individual does not request an informal staff conference or a formal hearing in writing within the time specified in this section, the individual is deemed to have waived the opportunity for a hearing, and the proposed action will be taken.
- (d) If the commission limits, suspends, revokes, or denies a certificate under this chapter, a written notice shall be provided to the person that includes:
- (1) the reasons for the decision;
 - (2) that the person may appeal the decision to the commission in accordance with §401.63 of this title (relating to Final Decision and Orders) within 30 days from the date the decision is final and appealable;
 - (3) that the person, after exhausting administrative appeals, may file an action in a district court of Travis County, Texas, for judicial review of the evidence presented to the commission and its decision; and that such petition must be filed with the court no later than 30 days after the commission action is final and appealable.

§403.15 Report of Convictions by an Individual or a Department

- (a) A certificate holder must report to the commission, any conviction, other than a minor traffic offense (Class C misdemeanor) under the laws of this state, another state, the United States, or a foreign country, within 14 days of the conviction date.
- (b) A regulated entity or local government entity shall report to the commission, any conviction of a certificate holder other than a minor traffic offense (class C misdemeanor) under the laws of this state, another state, the United States, or foreign country, that it has knowledge of, within 14 days of the conviction date.
- (c) A certificate holder is subject to suspension, revocation, or denial of any or all certifications for violation of the requirements of subsection (a) of this section. Each day may be considered a separate offense.
- (d) A regulated entity or government entity regulated by the commission violating subsection (b) of this section may be subject to administrative penalties of up to \$500. Each day may be considered a separate offense.
- (e) Notification may be made by mail, e-mail or in-person to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection

(TCFP) Austin office. TCFP Form #014 shall be used.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 4 WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

4. Discussion and possible action on the rule review of 37 TAC, Chapter 421, Standards for Certification **(please see attached)**.

TITLE 37 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS**PART 13 TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION****CHAPTER 421 STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION****§421.1 Procedures for Meetings**

The Commission may maintain advisory committees and ad hoc committees to assist with rulemaking, curriculum development, and the performance of the Commission's duties. Rules related to these committees are outlined in the 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 463, Advisory Committees, Practices and Procedures.

§421.3 Minimum Standards Set by the Commission

(a) General statement. It shall be clearly understood that the specified minimum standards described in this section are designated as a minimum program. Employing entities are encouraged to exceed the minimum program wherever possible. Continuous in-service training beyond the minimum standards for fire protection personnel is strongly recommended. Nothing in these regulations shall limit or be construed as limiting the powers of the Civil Service Commission, or the employing entity, to enact rules and regulations which establish a higher standard of training than the minimum specified, or which provides for the termination of the services of unsatisfactory employees during or upon completion of the prescribed probationary period.

(b) Functional position descriptions.

(1) Structural Fire Protection personnel. The following general position description for structural fire protection personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the fire fighter operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. Successfully complete a commission approved course; achieve a passing score on written and performance certification examinations; must be at least 18 years of age; generally, the knowledge and skills required show the need for a high school education or equivalent; ability to communicate verbally, via telephone and radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, drag, and balance weight equivalent to the average human weight; ability to interpret in English, written and oral instructions; ability to work effectively in high stress situations; ability to work effectively in an environment with loud noises and flashing lights; ability to function through an entire work shift; ability to calculate weight and volume ratios; ability to read and understand English language manuals including chemical, medical and technical terms, and road maps; ability to accurately discern street signs and address numbers; ability to document in English, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such; ability to converse in English with coworkers and other emergency response personnel. Good manual dexterity with ability to perform all tasks related to the protection of life and property; ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven surfaces; ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture; and ability to work in low or no light, confined spaces, elevated heights and other dangerous environments.

(B) Competency. A basic fire fighter must demonstrate competency handling emergencies utilizing equipment and skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 1 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(2) Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting personnel. The following general position description for aircraft rescue fire fighting personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies,

and tasks required of aircraft rescue fire fighting personnel operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to the qualifications for basic structural fire protection personnel: familiarity with geographic and physical components of an airport; ability to use and understand communication equipment, terminology, and procedures utilized by airports; ability and knowledge in the application of fire suppression agents; and ability to effectively perform fire suppression and rescue operations.

(B) Competency. Basic fire fighting and rescue personnel must demonstrate competency handling emergencies utilizing equipment and skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 2 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(3) Marine Fire Protection personnel. The following general position description for marine fire protection personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the marine fire fighter operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to the qualifications for basic structural fire protection personnel: familiarity with geographic and physical components of a navigable waterway; ability to use and understand communication equipment, terminology, and procedures used by the maritime industry; and knowledge in the operation of fire fighting vessels.

(B) Competency. A marine fire fighter must demonstrate competency in handling emergencies utilizing equipment and skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 3 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(4) Fire Inspection personnel. The following general position description for fire inspection personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the fire inspector operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. Successfully complete a commission approved course; achieve a passing score on certification examinations; must be at least 18 years of age; generally, the knowledge and skills required to show the need for a high school education or equivalent; ability to communicate verbally, via telephone and radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, and balance weight equivalent to weight of common tools and equipment necessary for conducting an inspection; ability to interpret written and oral instructions; ability to work effectively with the public; ability to work effectively in an environment with potentially loud noises; ability to function through an entire work shift; ability to calculate area, weight and volume ratios; ability to read and understand English language manuals including chemical, construction and technical terms, building plans and road maps; ability to accurately discern street signs and address numbers; ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in a prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such; ability to converse in English with coworkers and other personnel. Demonstrate knowledge of characteristics and behavior of fire, and fire prevention principles. Good manual dexterity with the ability to perform all tasks related to the inspection of structures and property; ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven surfaces; ability to climb ladders; ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture; and the ability to work in low light, confined spaces, elevated heights, and other dangerous environments.

(B) Competency. A fire inspector must demonstrate competency in conducting inspections utilizing equipment and skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 4 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(5) Fire Investigator personnel. The following general position description for fire investigator personnel

serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks¹⁷ required of the fire investigator operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. Successfully complete a commission approved course; achieve a passing score on certification examinations; be at least 18 years of age; generally, the knowledge and skills required to show the need for a high school education or equivalent; ability to communicate verbally, via telephone and radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, and balance weight equivalent to weight of common tools and equipment necessary for conducting an investigation; ability to interpret written and oral instructions; ability to work effectively with the public; ability to work effectively in a hazardous environment; ability to function through an entire work shift; ability to calculate area, weight and volume ratios; ability to read and understand English language manuals including chemical, legal and technical terms, building plans and road maps; ability to accurately discern street signs and address numbers; ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in a prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such; ability to converse in English with coworkers and other personnel. Good manual dexterity with the ability to perform all tasks related to fire investigation; ability to bend, stoop, and walk on uneven surfaces; ability to climb ladders; ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold and moisture; and the ability to work in low light, confined spaces, elevated heights, and other potentially dangerous environments.

(B) Competency. A fire investigator or arson investigator must demonstrate competency in determining fire cause and origin utilizing equipment and skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 5 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(6) Hazardous Materials Technician personnel. The following general position description for hazardous materials personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the hazardous materials technician operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to the qualifications for basic structural fire protection personnel: successfully complete a commission approved course; achieving a passing score on the certification examination; the ability to analyze a hazardous materials incident, plan a response, implement the planned response, evaluate the progress of the planned response, and terminate the incident.

(B) Competency. A hazardous materials technician must demonstrate competency handling emergencies resulting from releases or potential releases of hazardous materials, using specialized chemical protective clothing and control equipment in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 6 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(7) Hazardous Materials Incident Commander personnel. The following general position description for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Hazardous Materials Incident Commander operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to the qualifications for awareness and operations level personnel, the Hazardous Materials Incident Commander is an individual who has met all the job performance requirements of Hazardous Materials Incident Commander as defined in Chapter 8 of NFPA 472, Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents/Weapons of Mass Destruction. The individual should demonstrate knowledge in the policies, plans, and procedures regarding hazardous materials response as adopted by the local jurisdiction; and all components of the incident command system and their proper utilization.

(B) Competency. In addition to the competencies of awareness and operations level personnel, a Hazardous

Materials Incident Commander must demonstrate competency in such areas as: analyzing an incident¹⁸ via the collection of information and an estimation of potential outcomes; planning appropriate response operations; implementing a planned response; evaluating the progress of a planned response and revising as necessary; terminating an incident; conducting a post-incident critique; and reporting and documenting an incident in a manner consistent with local, state, and federal requirements.

(8) Driver/Operator-Pumper personnel. The following general position description for driver/operator-pumper personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the driver/operator-pumper of a fire department pumper operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to the qualifications for basic structural fire protection personnel: ability to perform specified routine test, inspection, and maintenance functions; ability to perform practical driving exercises; ascertain the expected fire flow; ability to position a fire department pumper to operate at a fire hydrant; ability to produce effective streams; and supply sprinkler and standpipe systems.

(B) Competency. A driver/operator-pumper must demonstrate competency operating a fire department pumper in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 7 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(9) Fire Officer I personnel. The following general position description for Fire Officer I personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire Officer I operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to the qualifications for basic structural fire protection and Fire Instructor I personnel: the ability to supervise personnel, and assign tasks at emergency operations; the ability to direct personnel during training activities; the ability to recommend action for member-related problems; the ability to coordinate assigned tasks and projects, and deal with inquiries and concerns from members of the community; the ability to implement policies; the ability to perform routine administrative functions, perform preliminary fire investigation, secure an incident scene and preserve evidence; the ability to develop pre-incident plans, supervise emergency operations, and develop and implement action plans; the ability to deploy assigned resources to ensure a safe work environment for personnel, conduct initial accident investigation, and document an incident.

(B) Competency. A Fire Officer I must demonstrate competency in handling emergencies and supervising personnel utilizing skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(10) Fire Officer II personnel. The following general position description for Fire Officer II personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire Officer II operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to the qualifications for Fire Officer I and Fire Instructor I personnel: the ability to motivate members for maximum job performance; the ability to evaluate job performance; the ability to deliver life safety and fire prevention education programs; the ability to prepare budget requests, news releases, and policy changes; the ability to conduct pre-incident planning, fire inspections, and fire investigations; the ability to supervise multi-unit emergency operations, identify unsafe work environments or behaviors, review injury, accident, and exposure reports.

(B) Competency. A Fire Officer II must demonstrate competency in supervising personnel and coordinating multi-unit emergency operations utilizing skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(11) Fire Officer III personnel. The following general position description for Fire Officer III personnel¹⁹ serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire Officer III operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. A Fire Officer III is a midlevel supervisor who performs both supervisory and first-line managerial functions. In addition to the qualifications and competency for Fire Officer II, the Fire Officer III is an individual who has met all the job performance requirements of Fire Officer III as defined in Chapter 6 of NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications. Typical duties of an individual at the Fire Officer III level include: establishing procedures for hiring, assignment, and professional development of personnel; developing public service/partnership and programs; preparing budgets and budget management systems; planning for organizational resource management; evaluating inspection and public safety programs and plans; managing multi-agency plans and operations; serving as Incident Commander at expanding emergency incidents for all hazard types; and developing and managing a departmental safety program.

(B) Competency. A Fire Officer III must demonstrate competency doing research; analyzing data and using evaluative techniques; developing proposals; developing, preparing, and implementing various procedures and programs within an organization; managing personnel resources; preparing and managing budgets; utilizing techniques to encourage personnel participation and development; and working in top-level positions within the incident command system.

(12) Fire Officer IV personnel. The following general position description for Fire Officer IV personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire Officer IV operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. A Fire Officer IV is an upper level supervisor who performs both supervisory and managerial functions. In addition to the qualifications and competency for Fire Officer III, the Fire Officer IV is an individual who has met all the job performance requirements of Fire Officer IV as defined in Chapter 7 of NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications. Typical duties of an individual at the Fire Officer IV level include: administering job performance requirements; evaluating and making improvements to department operations; developing long-range plans and fiscal projections; developing plans for major disasters; serving as Incident Commander at major incidents for all hazard types; and administering comprehensive risk management programs.

(B) Competency. A Fire Officer IV must demonstrate competency in appraising and evaluating departmental programs to ensure adherence to current laws and best practices; developing medium and long-range plans for organizations; and assuming a top-level leadership role in both the organization and community.

(13) Fire Service Instructor I personnel. The following general position description for Fire Service Instructor I personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire Service Instructor I operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to successfully completing a commission approved course and achieving a passing score on the certification examination: must have the ability to deliver instructions effectively from a prepared lesson plan; the ability to use instructional aids and evaluation instruments; the ability to adapt to lesson plans to the unique requirements of both student and the jurisdictional authority; the ability to organize the learning environment to its maximum potential; the ability to meet the record-keeping requirements of the jurisdictional authority.

(B) Competency. A Fire Service Instructor I must demonstrate competency in delivering instruction in an

environment organized for efficient learning while meeting the record-keeping needs of the authority having jurisdiction, utilizing skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 8 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(14) Fire Service Instructor II personnel. The following general position description for Fire Service Instructor II personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire Service Instructor II operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to successfully completing a commission approved course, achieving a passing score on the certification examination, and meeting the qualifications for Fire Service Instructor I: the ability to develop individual lesson plans for a specific topic, including learning objectives, instructional aids, and evaluation instruments; the ability to schedule training sessions based on the overall training plan of the jurisdictional authority; the ability to supervise and coordinate the activities of other instructors.

(B) Competency. A Fire Service Instructor II must demonstrate competency in developing individual lesson plans; scheduling training sessions; and supervising other instructors, utilizing skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 8 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(15) Fire Service Instructor III personnel. The following general position description for Fire Service Instructor III personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire Service Instructor III operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to successfully completing a commission approved course, achieving a passing score on the certification examination, and meeting the qualifications for Fire Service Instructor II: the ability to develop comprehensive training curricula and programs for use by single or multiple organizations; the ability to conduct organizational needs analysis; and the ability to develop training goals and implementation strategies.

(B) Competency. A Fire Service Instructor III must demonstrate competency in developing comprehensive training curricula and programs; conducting organizational needs analysis; and developing training goals and implementation strategies, utilizing skills in accordance with the objectives in Chapter 8 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual.

(16) Incident Safety Officer personnel. The following general position description for Incident Safety Officer personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Incident Safety Officer operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. An Incident Safety Officer is an individual who has met the requirements of Fire Officer Level I specified in NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications and Chapter 6 of NFPA 1521, Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer and has the knowledge, skill, and abilities to manage incident scene safety. Typical Incident Safety Officer duties include risk and resource evaluation; hazard identification and communication; action plan reviews; safety briefings; accident investigation; post incident analysis; and participation in safety committee activities.

(B) Competency. An Incident Safety Officer must demonstrate competency in management of incident scene safety through a working knowledge of the various emergency operations as prescribed by the local jurisdiction; an understanding of building construction; fire science and fire behavior; managing an organization's personnel accountability system; and incident scene rehabilitation methodology.

(17) Basic Wildland Fire Protection personnel. The following general position description for Basic Wildland

Fire Protection personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications²¹, competencies, and tasks required of the Basic Wildland Fire Fighter operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. A Basic Wildland Fire Fighter is an individual who has met the requirements of Chapter 5 of NFPA 1051, Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional qualifications, and should demonstrate knowledge in: wildland fire behavior; fireline safety and use; limitations of personal protective equipment; fire shelter use; fire suppression tactics and techniques in wildland settings; and have an understanding of the fire fighter's role within the local incident management system.

(B) Competency. A Basic Wildland Fire Fighter must demonstrate competency in such areas as: maintaining personal protective equipment and assigned fire suppression tools and equipment; the ability to quickly prepare for a response when notified; recognizing hazards and unsafe situations in a wildland fire; securing a fire line; mopping up a fire area; and patrolling a fire area so as to ensure fire control.

(18) Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection personnel. The following general position description for Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Intermediate Wildland Fire Fighter operating in the State of Texas. It is ultimately the responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each jurisdiction.

(A) Qualifications. In addition to the qualifications and competency for the Basic Wildland Fire Fighter, the Intermediate Wildland Fire Fighter is an individual who has met the requirements of Chapter 6 of NFPA 1051, Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional qualifications, and should demonstrate knowledge in: basic map reading; use of a locating device such as a compass; radio procedures as adopted by the local jurisdiction; and record keeping.

(B) Competency. An Intermediate Wildland Fire Fighter must demonstrate competency in such areas as: the ability to lead a team of fire fighters in the performance of assigned tasks while maintaining the safety of personnel; implementing appropriate fireline construction methods and other techniques for protection of exposed property; operation of water delivery equipment; securing an area of suspected fire origin and associated evidence; and serving as a lookout in a wildland fire.

(19) Plans Examiner personnel. The following general position description for Plans Examiner personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Plans Examiner operating in the State of Texas.

(A) Qualifications. A Plans Examiner is an individual who has met the requirements of Plans Examiner specified in NFPA 1030 (1031) Chapter 8, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions.

(B) Competency. A Plans Examiner analyzes building construction, hazardous processes, and architectural drawings or plans to ensure compliance with building and fire codes. This individual is also charged with reviewing plans for new construction as well as modifications to existing structures to ensure that applicable fire and life safety codes are followed.

(20) Fire and Life Safety Educator I personnel. The following general position description for Fire and Life Safety Educator I personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire and Life Safety Educator I, operating in the State of Texas.

(A) Qualifications. A Fire and Life Safety Educator I is an individual who has met the requirements of Fire and Life Safety Educator I specified in NFPA 1030 (1035) Chapter 9, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions.

(B) Competency. A Fire and Life Safety Educator I must demonstrate competency in the ability to ~~co~~²²ordinate and deliver existing educational programs and information designed to reduce risks within the community.

(21) Fire and Life Safety Educator II personnel. The following general position description for Fire and Life Safety Educator II personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire and Life Safety Educator II operating in the State of Texas.

(A) Qualifications. A Fire and Life Safety Educator II is an individual who has met the requirements of Fire and Life Safety Educator II specified in NFPA 1030 (1035) Chapter 10, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions.

(B) Competency. A Fire and Life Safety Educator II must demonstrate competency in the ability to prepare educational programs and information to meet identified needs to reduce risks within the community.

(22) Fire Marshal personnel. The following general position description for Fire Marshal personnel serves as a guide for anyone interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies, and tasks required of the Fire Marshal operating in the State of Texas.

(A) Qualifications. A Fire Marshal is an individual who has met the requirements of Fire Marshal specified in NFPA 1030 (1037) Chapter 4 & 5, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions.

(B) Competency. A person designated to provide delivery, management, or administration of fire-protection-and life-safety-related codes and standards, investigations, community risk reduction, education, or prevention services for local, county, state, provincial, federal, tribal, or private sector jurisdictions as adopted or determined by that entity.

§421.5 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in the Standards Manual, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Admission to employment--An entry level full-time employee of a local government entity in one of the categories of fire protection personnel.

(2) Appointment--The designation or assignment of a person to a discipline regulated by the commission. The types of appointments are:

(A) permanent appointment--the designation or assignment of certified fire protection personnel or certified part time fire protection employees to a particular discipline (See Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, §419.032); and

(B) probationary or temporary appointment--the designation or assignment of an individual to a particular discipline, except for head of a fire department, for which the individual has passed the commission's certification and has met the medical requirement of §423.1(c) of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Structure Fire Protection Personnel), if applicable, but has not yet been certified. (See Texas Government Code, Chapter, §419.032.)

(3) Approved training--Any training used for a higher level of certification must be approved by the commission and assigned to either the A-List or the B-List. The training submission must be in a manner specified by the commission and contain all information requested by the commission. The commission will not grant credit twice for the same subject content or course. Inclusion on the A-List or B-List does not

- (4) Assigned/work--A fire protection personnel or a part-time fire protection employee shall be considered "assigned/working" in a position, any time the individual is receiving compensation and performing the duties that are regulated by the commission and has been permanently appointed, as defined in this section, to the particular discipline.
- (5) Assistant fire chief--The officer occupying the first position subordinate to the head of a fire department.
- (6) Auxiliary fire fighter--A volunteer fire fighter.
- (7) Benefits--Benefits shall include, but are not limited to, inclusion in group insurance plans (such as health, life, and disability) or pension plans, stipends, free water usage, and reimbursed travel expenses (such as meals, mileage, and lodging).
- (8) Chief Training Officer--The individual, by whatever title he or she may be called, who coordinates the activities of a certified training facility.
- (9) Class hour--Defined as not less than 50 minutes of instruction, also defined as a contact hour; a standard for certification of fire protection personnel.
- (10) Code--The official legislation creating the commission.
- (11) College credits--Credits earned for studies satisfactorily completed at an institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and including National Fire Academy (NFA) open learning program colleges, or courses recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE) or delivered through the National Emergency Training Center (both EMI and NFA) programs. A course of study satisfactorily completed and identified on an official transcript from a college or in the ACE National Guide that is primarily related to Fire Service, Emergency Medicine, Emergency Management, or Public Administration is defined as applicable for Fire Science college credit, and is acceptable for higher levels of certification. A criminal justice course related to fire and or arson investigation that is satisfactorily completed and identified on an official transcript from a college or in the ACE National Guide may be used to qualify for Master Arson Investigator certification.
- (12) Commission--Texas Commission on Fire Protection.
- (13) Commission-recognized training--A curriculum or training program which carries written approval from the commission, or credit hours that appear on an official transcript from an accredited college or university, or any fire service training received from a nationally recognized source, i.e., the National Fire Academy.
- (14) Compensation--Compensation is to include wages, salaries, and "per call" payments (for attending drills, meetings or answering emergencies).
- (15) Expired--Any certification that has not been renewed on or before the end of the certification period.
- (16) Federal fire fighter--A person as defined in Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, §419.084(h).
- (17) Fire chief--The head of a fire department.
- (18) Fire department--A department of a local government that is staffed by one or more fire protection personnel or part-time fire protection employees.

(19) Fire protection personnel--Any person who is a permanent full-time employee of a fire department²⁴ or governmental entity and who is appointed duties in one of the following categories/disciplines: fire suppression, fire inspection, fire and arson investigation, marine fire fighting, aircraft rescue fire fighting, fire training, fire education, fire administration and others employed in related positions necessarily or customarily appertaining thereto.

(20) Fire Code Inspection--Also called Fire Safety Inspection as referenced in Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, §419.909. An inspection performed for the purpose of determining and enforcing compliance with an adopted fire code.

(21) Fire suppression duties--Engaging in the controlling or extinguishment of a fire of any type or performing activities which are required for and directly related to the control and extinguishment of fires or standing by on the employer's premises or apparatus or nearby in a state of readiness to perform these duties.

(22) Full-time--An officer or employee is considered full-time if the employee works an average of 40 hours a week or averages 40 hours per week or more during a work cycle in a calendar year. For the purposes of this definition paid leave will be considered time worked.

(23) Government entity--The local authority having jurisdiction as employer of full-time fire protection personnel in a state agency, incorporated city, village, town or county, education institution or political subdivision.

(24) High school--A school accredited as a high school by the Texas Education Agency or equivalent accreditation agency from another jurisdiction.

(25) Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH)--An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

(26) Incipient stage fire--A fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus.

(27) Instructor:

(A) Lead Instructor--Oversees the presentation of an entire course and assures that course objectives are met in accordance with the applicable curriculum or course material. The lead instructor should have sufficient experience in presenting all units of the course so as to be capable of last-minute substitution for other instructors.

(B) Instructor (also Unit Instructor for wildland courses)--Responsible for the successful presentation of one or more areas of instruction within a course, and should be experienced in the lesson content they are presenting.

(C) Guest Instructor--An individual who may or may not hold Instructor certification but whose special knowledge, skill, and expertise in a particular subject area may enhance the effectiveness of the training in a course. Guest instructors shall teach under the endorsement of the lead instructor.

(28) Interior structural fire fighting--The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage. (See 29 CFR §1910.155.)

(29) Military active duty (or active duty)--Current full-time military service in the armed forces of the United States, or full-time military service as a member of the Texas military forces or a similar service of another state.

(30) Military service member--A person who is on active duty.

(31) Military spouse--A person who is married to a military service member.

(32) Military veteran--A person who has served on active duty and who was discharged or released from active duty.

(33) Municipality--Any incorporated city, village, or town of this state and any county or political subdivision or district in this state. Municipal pertains to a municipality as defined in this section.

(34) National Fire Academy semester credit hours--The number of hours credited for attendance of National Fire Academy courses is determined as recommended in the most recent edition of the "National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs," American Council on Education (ACE).

(35) National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)--An organization established to provide and advocate consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education for fire protection.

(36) National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)--An operational group designed to establish, implement, maintain, and communicate policy, standards, guidelines, and qualifications for wildland fire program management among participating agencies.

(37) Non-self-serving affidavit--A sworn document executed by someone other than the individual seeking certification.

(38) Participating volunteer fire fighter--An individual who voluntarily seeks certification and regulation by the commission under the Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, Subchapter D.

(39) Participating volunteer fire service organization--A fire department that voluntarily seeks regulation by the commission under the Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, Subchapter D.

(40) Part-time fire protection employee--An individual who is appointed as a part-time fire protection employee and who receives compensation, including benefits and reimbursement for expenses. A part-time fire protection employee is not full-time as defined in this section.

(41) Personal alert safety system (PASS)--Devices that are certified as being compliant with NFPA 1982 and that automatically activates an alarm signal (which can also be manually activated) to alert and assist others in locating a fire fighter or emergency services person who is in danger.

(42) Political subdivision--A political subdivision of the State of Texas that includes, but is not limited to the following:

(A) city;

(B) county;

(C) school district;

(D) junior college district;

(E) levee improvement district;

(F) drainage district;

(G) irrigation district;

(H) water improvement district;

(I) water control and improvement district;

(J) water control and preservation district;

(K) freshwater supply district;

(L) navigation district;

(M) conservation and reclamation district;

(N) soil conservation district;

(O) communication district;

(P) public health district;

(Q) river authority;

(R) municipal utility district;

(S) transit authority;

(T) hospital district;

(U) emergency services district;

(V) rural fire prevention district; and

(W) any other governmental entity that:

(i) embraces a geographical area with a defined boundary;

(ii) exists for the purpose of discharging functions of the government; and

(iii) possesses authority for subordinate self-government through officers selected by it.

(43) Pre-fire Planning--Also called a Pre-fire Survey. A walk-through performed by fire fighters for the purpose of gaining familiarity with a building, its contents, and its occupancy.

(44) Reciprocity for IFSAC seals and TEEEX Pro Board certificates--Valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service used for commission certification may only be used for obtaining an initial certification.

- (45) Recognition of training--A document issued by the commission stating that an individual has completed the training requirements of a specific phase level of the Basic Fire Suppression Curriculum.
- (46) School--Any school, college, university, academy, or local training program which offers fire service training and included within its meaning the combination of course curriculum, instructors, and facilities.
- (47) Structural fire protection personnel--Any person who is a permanent full-time employee of a government entity who engages in fire fighting activities involving structures and may perform other emergency activities typically associated with fire fighting activities such as rescue, emergency medical response, confined space rescue, hazardous materials response, and wildland fire fighting.
- (48) Trainee--An individual who is participating in a commission approved training program.
- (49) Volunteer fire protection personnel--Any person who has met the requirements for membership in a volunteer fire service organization, who is assigned duties in one of the following categories: fire suppression, fire inspection, fire and arson investigation, marine fire fighting, aircraft rescue fire fighting, fire training, fire education, fire administration and others in related positions necessarily or customarily appertaining thereto.
- (50) Volunteer fire service organization--A volunteer fire department or organization not under mandatory regulation by the commission.
- (51) Years of experience--For purposes of higher levels of certification or fire service instructor certification:
- (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, years of experience is defined as full years of full-time, part-time or volunteer fire service while holding:
- (i) a commission certification as a full-time, or part-time employee of a government entity, a member in a volunteer fire service organization, and/or an employee of a regulated non-governmental fire department; or
 - (ii) a State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association advanced fire fighter certification and have successfully completed, as a minimum, the requirements for an Emergency Care Attendant (ECA) as specified by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), or its successor agency, or its equivalent; or
 - (iii) an equivalent certification as a full-time fire protection personnel of a governmental entity from another jurisdiction, including the military, or while a member in a volunteer fire service organization from another jurisdiction, and have, as a minimum, the requirements for an ECA as specified by the DSHS, or its successor agency, or its equivalent; or
 - (iv) for fire service instructor eligibility only, a State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association Level II Instructor Certification, received prior to June 1, 2008 or Instructor I received on or after June 1, 2008 or an equivalent instructor certification from the DSHS or the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Documentation of at least three years of experience as a volunteer in the fire service shall be in the form of a non self-serving sworn affidavit.
- (B) For fire service personnel certified as required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph on or before October 31, 1998, years of experience includes the time from the date of employment or membership to date of certification not to exceed one year.

§421.9 Designation of Fire Protection Duties

- (a) An individual who performs one or more fire protection duties, listed in the Texas Government Code,

§419.021(3)(C), for a fire department of local government entity shall be designated to only one of the following categories:

- (1) fire protection personnel;
- (2) a part-time fire protection employee; or
- (3) a volunteer fire fighter or other auxiliary fire fighter.

(b) A fire department regulated by the Commission may not designate the same person under more than one category under this section. The designation shall be made on the records of the department and the designation shall be made available for inspection by the Commission or sent to the Commission on request.

(c) A fire department regulated by the Commission shall report the appointment of fire protection personnel to a regulated discipline via the Commission's online management program, or the appropriate form if available. Fire protection personnel who are assigned to a regulated discipline as part of their regularly assigned duties shall be appointed to that discipline with the Commission. No individual may be appointed to a discipline without approval by the Commission. The Commission shall not approve an initial appointment to a regulated discipline until it has reviewed and approved a person's fingerprint-based criminal history record. Termination of fire protection personnel or part-time fire protection employees shall be reported to the Commission via the Commission's online management program, or the appropriate form if available within 14 calendar days of the action. In the case of termination, the employing entity shall report an individual's last known home address to the Commission. A Removal from Appointment form may be submitted without the employee's signature.

(d) A fire department may not in a calendar year compensate, reimburse, or provide benefits to a person the department has designated as a volunteer or other auxiliary fire fighter in an amount that is equal to or more than what a person receives working 2,080 hours at the federal minimum wage.

(e) A person certified as fire protection personnel in one fire department may be employed and designated as a part-time fire protection employee in another fire department without additional certification as a part-time fire protection employee.

§421.11 Requirement To Be Certified Within One Year

(a) Except for subsection (c) and (d) of this section, fire protection personnel or part-time fire protection employees of a fire department who are appointed duties identified as fire protection personnel duties must be certified by the commission in the discipline(s) to which they are assigned within one year of their appointment to the duties or within two years of successfully passing the applicable commission examination, whichever is less. The commission shall not approve an initial certification for a regulated discipline until it has reviewed and approved a person's fingerprint-based criminal history record. An individual who accepts appointment(s) in violation of this section shall be removed from the appointment(s) and will be subject to administrative penalties. A department or local government that appoints an individual in violation of this section will also be subject to administrative penalties.

(b) An individual who has been removed from appointment to duties identified as fire protection personnel duties for violation of this section must petition the commission in writing for permission to be reappointed to the duties from which they were removed. The petition will be considered only if the individual has obtained all appropriate certification(s) applicable to the duties to which the individual seeks reappointment.

(c) A military spouse may be appointed to fire protection personnel duties with a regulated fire department without being required to obtain the applicable certification, provided the military spouse submits the following to the commission prior to appointment and has received confirmation of approval from the

- (1) notification to the commission of intent to perform regulated fire protection duties;
- (2) documentation of equivalent certification from another jurisdiction;
- (3) a fingerprint-based criminal history record using the commission approved system;
- (4) proof of residency in Texas; and
- (5) a copy of the individual's military identification card.

(d) A military spouse appointed to fire protection duties under this section may engage in those duties only for the period in which the military service member to whom the spouse is married is stationed at a military installation in Texas, but not to exceed three years from the date the military spouse receives approval from the commission to engage in those duties.

§421.13 Individual Certificate Holders

- (a) Employment is not mandatory for certification. An individual may hold or renew any certificate issued by the commission for which they maintain their qualifications.
- (b) An individual certificate holder must notify the commission of a change of his or her home address within 14 calendar days of a change of address.

§421.15 Extension of Training Period

A fire department may apply to the commission for an extension of the one-year training period, identified in §419.032(c) of the Government Code, for a time period not exceeding two years from the date of original appointment as follows:

- (1) the request for extension shall be placed on the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee's (FFAC's) agenda to be heard at its next regular or special called meeting after submission of the request;
- (2) after review by the FFAC, the application along with the FFAC's recommendations will be sent to the commission to be heard at its next regular meeting. If the request for extension is approved by the commission, the extension shall become effective immediately; and
- (3) the one-year extension of training time, if granted, shall run from the date of forfeiture and removal or, at the latest, from one year after the original date training began, whichever occurs first.

§421.17 Requirement to Maintain Certification

- (a) All full-time or part-time employees of a fire department or local government assigned duties identified as fire protection personnel duties must maintain certification by the commission in the discipline(s) to which they are assigned for the duration of their assignment.
- (b) In order to maintain the certification required by this section, the certificate(s) of the employees must be renewed annually by complying with §437.5 of this title (relating to Renewal Fees) and Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education) of the commission standards manual.
- (c) Except for subsection (d) of this section, or upon determination by the Executive Director when special

circumstances are presented, an individual whose certificate has been expired for greater than one year³⁸ but no longer than five years, may renew their certification once they comply with the CE requirements for the period of time their certification was inactive, as outlined in 37 TAC, Chapter 441, Continuing Education, and they pay all applicable certification renewal fees for the period of time that their certification was inactive, as required in 37 TAC, Chapter 437, Fees. Individuals whose certification has been expired longer than five years, may not renew the certificate previously held. To obtain a new certification, an individual must meet the requirements in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification).

(d) A military service member whose certificate has been expired for three years or longer may not renew the certificate previously held. To obtain a new certification, the person must meet the requirements in Chapter 439 of this title. In order to qualify for this provision, the individual must have been a military service member at the time the certificate expired and continued in that status for the duration of the three-year period.

(e) The commission will provide proof of current certification to individuals whose certification has been renewed.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 5

5. Discussion on cancer and mental health related to the Texas Fire Service.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 6

6. Continued discussion regarding the injury report and reporting collaboration between agencies as mentioned in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 419.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 7

7. Subjects for future agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 8

8. Future meeting dates.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 9

9. Adjourn meeting.