



## **Division of Personnel Standards and Education Proposed Administrative Rule Changes 2024 Fact Sheet**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is proposing the following changes to Title 41 Part 141 Administrative Rules regarding the certification of fire protection personnel.

- Updates to the following Sections adopting current NFPA Standard editions for certification programs:
  - *Sec. 141.20 Incorporation by Reference*
  - *Sec. 141.100 Training Facility Approval*
  - *Sec. 141.302 Airport Firefighter*
  - *Sec. 141.306 Fire Apparatus Engineer*
  - *Sec. 141.326 Basic Fire Prevention Officer*
  - *Sec. 141.327 Fire Inspector I*
  - *Sec. 141.328 Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Specialist*
  - *Sec. 141.329 Fire Inspector II*
  - *Sec. 141.330 Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I*
  - *Sec. 141.331 Advanced Fire Prevention Officer*
  - *Sec. 141.334 Fire Investigator*
  - *Sec. 141.346 Hazardous Materials Technician*
  - *Sec. 141.364 Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue*
  - *Sec. 141.370 Fire Service Vehicle Operator*
  
- *Sec. 141.115 Course Approval*: Clarifies consequences when courses are not added to the DPSE WebAccess Portal Event Calendar; adds additional courses that require submission of syllabi and content for approval.
  
- *Sec. 141.200 State Examinations*: Clarifies Instructor qualifications to administer practical examinations.
  
- *Sec. 141.215 Non-Affiliated Individuals*: Removes completion of the Fire Service Vehicle Operator course from requirements. This change reflects proposed changes to the Basic Operations Firefighter certification requirements.

## Changes to Certification Requirements:

- Sec. 141.301 Basic Operations Firefighter: NFPA Standard update; removes Fire Service Vehicle Operator course completion requirement; revises Modules subject matter to meet NFPA Standard; moves required additional training listed as prerequisites for certification to Module C and adds Traffic Incident Management.
- Sec. 141.303 Advanced Technician Firefighter: NFPA Standard update; removes Vehicle and Machinery Operations as a prerequisite for certification; removes requirement for one year of fire service experience since Basic Operations Firefighter certification; removes requirement for 3 years of fire service experience.
- Sec. 141.309 Company Fire Officer: Clarifies consequences of completing Task Book tasks prior to passage of the state written examination.
- Sec. 141.310 Fire Service Executive Support: Revises Instructor qualification.
- Sec. 141.315 Advanced Fire Officer: Clarifies consequences of completing Task Book tasks prior to passage of the state written examination.
- Sec. 141.316 Chief Fire Officer: Requires that candidates who have completed a Chief Fire Officer course prior to January 1, 2022, and have not received full certification by December 31, 2025, must complete a new course prior to applying for or receiving full certification.
- Sec. 141.328 Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Specialist: (Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist) NFPA Standard and name update.
- Sec. 141.336 Arson Investigator: Repeal. See more information below.
- Sec. 141.337 State Fire Marshal Arson Investigator Special Agent: New section and certification for OSFM Division of Arson Special Agents only.
- Sec. 141.344 Hazardous Materials Operations: NFPA Standard update; clarifies that course must include Hazardous Materials Awareness level JPR's.
- Sec. 141.362 Structural Collapse Technician: Removes Vehicle and Machinery Operations as a prerequisite for certification.
- Sec. 141.364 Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue: (Vehicle and Machinery Operations) NFPA Standard and name update.
- Sec. 141.366 Heavy Vehicle Rescue: (Vehicle and Machinery Technician) NFPA Standard and name update; removes Rope Operations as a prerequisite for certification.
- Sec. 141.385 Rescue Operations: Repeal.
- Sec. 141.386 Rescue Technician: Repeal.
- Sec. 141.390 Recertifications: Removes Arson Investigator, Rescue Operations, and Rescue Technician recertification requirements; revises list of certification titles.
- Sec. 141.395 Historical Certification Titles: Updates to address certification name changes for Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist, Vehicle and Machinery Operations and Vehicle and Machinery Technician.

## Arson Investigator Certification Repeal:

- All certifications with DPSE/OSFM are voluntary, including Arson Investigator.
- The certificate was signed by both OSFM and the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board (ILETSB).
- ILETSB has notified OSFM that they will no longer sign Arson Investigator certifications.
- OSFM is unable to review or validate law enforcement training requirements and does not have adequate capability to confirm compliance with the requirements of the certification on its own, so OSFM can no longer provide this certification.
- Repeal of the Arson Investigator certification **does not** affect the ability of arson investigators to serve in their role.
- The OSFM-ILETSB-signed arson investigator certification **does not** determine the eligibility of an employee or affect their authority or status relating to law enforcement. Actually:
  - The local authority having jurisdiction is responsible for determining the credentials of an employee and their rights associated with that employment. While OSFM will no longer issue an 'Arson Investigator' certification, there is no change to underlying laws such as the Peace Officer Fire Investigation Act (20 ILCS 2910) or the local authority's ability to retain arson investigators.
  - OSFM certification (or lack thereof) has no impact on whether local personnel are recognized members of law enforcement by ILETSB.
- OSFM is adding an arson certification exclusively for OSFM's Arson Investigator Special Agents, because OSFM is able to directly and fully review the training records and compliance of its own employees.

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