

Information Bulletin

Minimum Standards for Fire Chief of a Career or Combination Fire Department

General Municipal Law §204-dd and 9 NYCRR Part 227 establish minimum qualifications for fire chiefs, volunteer or career, of a fire department with six or more paid, civil-service appointed career firefighters. To be eligible for election or appointment as the Fire Chief, a candidate must meet the meet the core competencies established by the State Fire Administrator for Incident Commander, based upon the Recommended Best Practices for Firefighter Training. A career fire chief appointed pursuant to the Civil Service Law must also meet the minimum qualifications established pursuant to Civil Service Law §58-a and 19 NYCRR Section 426.9.

Core Competencies for Incident Commander:

1. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in the following core competencies:

- a. Safe and effective assignment and supervision of tasks, or responsibilities to managing unit officers at emergency incidents (including those on highways and roadways), during training and under routine or non-emergency circumstances
- b. Be capable of communicating clear direction and supervision of members during training
- c. Knowledge of administrative policies and procedures and records management, including incident reports
- d. Knowledge of building construction and fire behavior, including structural soundness and the significance of fire load
- e. Be capable of evaluating and implementing scene security and evidence preservation
- f. Be capable of developing and implementing an incident action plan
- g. Be capable of conducting a post-incident analysis
- h. Be knowledgeable of safety principles, including injury and accident prevention
- i. Be familiar with fire department injury and accident reporting requirements according to department policies
- j. Be familiar with firefighter health and wellness for recognition of issues, e.g. stress, heart attack and other issues that would hinder firefighter's response capabilities.
- k. An understanding of strategy, tactics, and operations in fire suppression
- l. An understanding of vehicle extrication procedures and department capabilities and limitations
- m. Awareness of other situations expected to be encountered in the department's immediate response area
- n. Be capable of initiating scene size-up procedures
- o. Be familiar with initial arrival report ("C.A.N. [Conditions, Actions, Needs] -Report") protocols
- p. Be familiar with radio communications operations

- q. Be capable of communicating fire-ground reports (location of fire, water on fire, searches, knock-down, etc.)
- r. Be familiar with urgent & mayday communication protocols
- s. Be familiar with how to mitigate miscellaneous emergencies (Gas leaks, CO, Electrical, elevator rescues, hazmat containment etc.)
- t. Understand RIT/FAST Operations and how to implement them
- u. Obtain a certificate for the latest version of NIMS ICS-200
- v. Understanding the use and limitations of special fire department equipment, e.g. gas meters, thermal imaging cameras, self-escape equipment, gas powered tools, etc.

2. Completed training covering the following core competencies for Apparatus Operators:

- a. Performing routine preventive maintenance, inspection and being capable of initiating the service of vehicle systems, components, equipment, tools, and appliances assigned to the vehicle and be capable of initiating correction of any deficiencies noted.
- b. Be capable of documenting routine maintenance, inspection and service of the vehicle's systems, components, equipment, tools, and appliances mounted on or assigned to vehicle. Be capable of initiating correction of any deficiencies noted during this process or any corrective actions required to address deficiencies
- c. Be capable of demonstrating safe operation of the vehicle in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and standards during routine driving and emergency responses
- d. Be capable of demonstrating defensive driving practices
- e. Be capable of demonstrating safe maneuvering of the vehicle around obstructions and in restricted spaces both forward and reverse
- f. Be able to demonstrate safe backing procedures and the use of a spotter
- g. Be knowledgeable of operational capabilities and limitations of the vehicle, its systems and components, equipment, tools, and appliances mounted on or assigned to that vehicle
- h. Understand the operation of the functional systems, tools, equipment, and appliances mounted on or assigned to the vehicle; and
- i. Be capable of demonstrating the ability to operate the pump or other functional systems on the apparatus

3. Completed training in the following core competencies for Interior Firefighters:

- a. How to Initiate a response to a reported emergency
- b. Fire service communication operations
- c. Familiarizations with assigned self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) during emergency operations
- d. Safe fire apparatus response to an emergency incident
- e. Scene safety and operating at an emergency incident
- f. Familiarization with forcible entry techniques
- g. Operating as a team member within a hazardous area
- h. Familiarization with ground ladder operations
- i. Familiarizations with safe operations at vehicle fires
- j. Understanding outside or exterior fires and defensive operations
- k. Familiarizations with structure fire search and rescue operations

- l. Familiarization with interior fire attack operations
- m. Familiarization horizontal and vertical ventilation operations
- n. Understanding overhaul operations
- o. Familiarizations with salvage and property conservation techniques
- p. Familiarization with water supply operations
- q. Understanding of fire chemistry and behavior
- r. Familiarization with fire extinguisher operations
- s. Ground cover fires
- t. Fire equipment, hose and PPE inspection and maintenance
- u. Building construction related to interior structural firefighting operations

4. Have completed training for the following core competencies for Exterior Firefighters:

- a. Complete a training program addressing the subject areas/core competencies associated with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 requirements or Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations
- b. Complete a training program addressing the subject areas/core competencies associated with Infection Control to achieve compliance with OSHA 29CFR1910.1030
- c. Complete the objectives for Basic First Aid
- d. Complete the objectives for Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation
- e. Completion of the latest version of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses ICS-700 and ICS-100
- f. Fire safety principles familiarization
- g. Tool and scene safety awareness
- h. Building Construction in relation to fire service operations
- i. Understanding fire behavior and development
- j. Familiarizations with personal protective equipment (PPE) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) as assigned
- k. Familiarization with fire service communication operations
- l. Familiarizations with incident management principles
- m. Familiarizations with fire prevention principles
- n. Arson awareness
- o. Familiarizations with fire extinguisher operations
- p. Familiarizations with hose practices, nozzles, and fire streams (excluding interior structural fire attack)
- q. Understanding of water supply operations
- r. Familiarization with ground ladder operations
- s. Ropes and knots

These qualifications are in addition to any local requirements for fire chief. Questions regarding the Minimum Standards for Fire Chief of a Career or Combination Fire Department may be sent to ofpc.firechief@dhses.ny.gov.