



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

*Division of State Fire Marshal
Bureau of Fire Standards & Training*

Title: FIRE INVESTIGATOR CERTIFICATION

Effective Date: May 18, 2017

FIRE INVESTIGATOR CERTIFICATION - OVERVIEW

The Fire Investigator Certification Program is a voluntary advanced training program designed for certified firefighters, certified law enforcement officers, law enforcement crime scene technicians, and certified firesafety inspectors who have fire investigation responsibilities.

“Law enforcement crime scene technician,” means a person who, as part of his or her job duties, reports to crime scenes to assist in the processing of evidence and who is employed to do such work by a governmental agency. A person claiming to be a law enforcement crime scene technician must include with the application for certification a statement from his or her direct supervisor confirming that he or she is employed as a law enforcement crime scene technician.

This program is based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1033 “Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator” and is intended to prepare individuals for service as fire investigators in the public sector.

Upon successful completion of this program, the applicant will earn the Fire Investigator Certificate of Competency. An applicant can follow one of two paths to earn this certification:

PATH 1 – FOR INDIVIDUALS HOLDING A FL FIRE INVESTIGATOR II CERTIFICATION

The Division shall issue a Fire Investigator Certificate of Competency if the applicant:

1. Is a certified firefighter, certified law enforcement officer, law enforcement crime scene technician, or certified sworn or non-sworn firesafety inspector; and,
2. Submitted to the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training a completed Form DFS-K4-2175, “Fire Investigator Portfolio,” or a completed Form DFS-K4-2171, “Fire Investigator Task Book,” both of which are incorporated by reference in subsection 69A-37.039(2), F.A.C., and can be obtained as specified in subsection 69A-37.039(1), F.A.C.; and,
3. Submitted a completed Form DFS-K4-1438, “Application for Fire Investigator Certification,” which is incorporated by reference in subsection 69A-37.039(2), F.A.C., and can be obtained as specified in subsection 69A-37.039(1), F.A.C., with all supporting documentation and fees, including the supervisor’s statement that he or she is employed as a law enforcement crime scene technician (if applicable), to the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.

PATH 2 – FOR ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS (INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS HOLDING A FL FIRE INVESTIGATOR I CERTIFICATION)

The Division shall issue a Fire Investigator Certificate of Competency if the applicant:

1. Completed all courses required under Program Requirements with a grade of 70% or higher in each; and,
2. Passed the Fire Investigator state certification examination with a score of 70% or higher; and,
3. Is a certified firefighter, certified law enforcement officer, law enforcement crime scene technician, or certified sworn or non-sworn firesafety inspector; and,
4. Submitted to the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training a completed Form DFS-K4-2171, “Fire Investigator Task Book,” which is incorporated by reference in subsection 69A-37.039(2), F.A.C., and can be obtained as specified in subsection 69A-37.039(1), F.A.C.; and,
5. Submitted the required Form DFS-K4-1438, “Application for Fire Investigator Certification,” which is incorporated by reference in subsection 69A-37.039(2), F.A.C., and can be obtained as specified in subsection 69A-37.039(1), F.A.C., with all supporting documentation and fees, including the supervisor’s statement that he or she is employed as a law enforcement crime scene technician (if applicable), to the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.

Program Requirements

Each individual must satisfy program requirements. The program shall consist of no less than 360 hours of training, with each course being no less than 45 hours in duration. Unless courses of equivalent interactive instruction are approved by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, the individual must complete each of the following courses:

- Fire Chemistry *
- Fire Origin and Cause
- Fire Protection Systems 1 *
- Building Construction *
- Latent Investigation
- Arson Investigation
- Post Blast Investigation
- Legal Issues for Investigators

** These classes may be taught using alternative delivery techniques, including online course delivery or blended learning. All other classes must be taught using a traditional classroom delivery method.*

FAQs

ARE MY CURRENT FIRE INVESTIGATOR CERTIFICATIONS (I & II) STILL VALID?

Any Fire Investigator I or Fire Investigator II Certificate of Competency issued by the Division remains active until the Fire Investigator I certificate holder or Fire Investigator II certificate holder is issued a Fire Investigator Certificate of Competency.

CAN I APPLY ONLINE FOR A FIRE INVESTIGATOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY?

Form DFS-K4-1438, “**Application for Fire Investigator Certification**” can be submitted online via FCDICE at:

https://floridastatefirecollege.org/public/pb_exam_app_qual_select.aspx

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN THIS “TASK BOOK” THAT IS MENTIONED?

Form DFS-K4-2175, “**Fire Investigator Portfolio**”, Form DFS-K4-2171, “**Fire Investigator Task Book**” and Form DFS-K4-1438, “**Application for Fire Investigator Certification**” are available in Microsoft Word and PDF Format on the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training Website at:

<http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/SFM/BEST/BESTForms.htm>

IS THE FLORIDA FIRE INVESTIGATOR CERTIFICATION PROBOARD CERTIFIED TO NFPA 1033?

No, not at this time. However, we are applying for the Florida Fire Investigator Certification to receive ProBoard Certification (NFPA 1033). We will announce the effective date of ProBoard Certification once it is available.

I COMPLETED A FIRE CHEMISTRY COURSE IN COLLEGE; BUT, IT IS NOT LISTED ON MY FCDICE COURSE HISTORY. CAN THIS COURSE COUNT TOWARDS MEETING THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS?

Courses submitted for equivalency of meeting the Program Requirements shall be reviewed by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. Courses determined by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training to be of equivalent interactive instruction shall be approved as an alternate only after receipt of the required documentation. All requests for course equivalency shall include, at a minimum:

1. Name of course,
2. Passage scores and rates,
3. An educational agenda or syllabus,
4. Required number of classroom or alternative interactive hours,
5. Description of the course objectives, student learning outcomes, or job performance requirements covered.

Requests for approval shall be submitted in writing to:

Bureau of Fire Standards and Training
11655 Northwest Gainesville Road
Ocala, Florida 34482-1486.