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TO: Program Directors, Ohio Chartered Fire Training Institutions

FROM: Melvin House, Executive Director
Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services

REF: Initial Firefighter Course Entrance Requirements

Per the Ohio Administrative Code, Firefighter I (OAC 4765-24-10 and -11), Firefighter II (OAC 4765-24-12), and Firefighter I and II (OAC 4765-24-13) courses shall meet the general knowledge requirements, general skill requirements, and job performance requirements specified in NFPA 1001 for the respective firefighter level.

Chapter 1 of NFPA 1001 *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, 2019 Edition, outlines the entrance requirements for a firefighter candidate. For the purpose of defining authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) responsibilities as it relates to delivery of NFPA 1001 compliant courses, the Division of EMS (through the Ohio Administrative Code) or the chartered fire training program serves as the AHJ, as set forth below.

Prior to entering training to meet the requirements of Chapters 4 and 5 of the standard, candidates shall meet the following:

- (1) Minimum educational requirements established by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)—The educational requirements shall be established by the chartered fire training program.
- (2) Age requirements established by the AHJ—The age requirements are established for each course in Chapter 4765-24 of the Ohio Administrative Code.
- (3) Medical requirements of NFPA 1582, *Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments*—NFPA 1582 Chapter 6, section 6.1 Medical Evaluation states, “A medical evaluation of a candidate shall be conducted prior to the candidate being placed in training programs or fire department emergency response activities.” Chapter 6 goes on to explain medical conditions that can affect a candidate’s ability to safely perform essential job tasks shall be designated either Category A or Category B and what those categories mean.

- (4) Physical fitness requirements developed and validated by the AHJ—The physical fitness requirements shall be developed and validated by the chartered fire training program.
- (5) Minimum emergency medical care performance capabilities for entry-level personnel, developed and validated by the AHJ—Minimal emergency medical care performance capabilities shall be developed and validated by the chartered fire training program. The minimum training as set forth in NFPA 1001, chapter 6, includes infection control, CPR/AED, bleeding control, and shock management. As developed and validated by each chartered fire training program, candidates that hold a first aid provider certificate or any level of EMS provider recognized by the state of Ohio (EMR through paramedic) may be deemed to meet the minimal emergency medical care performance capabilities as set forth in NFPA 1001, chapters 1 and 6.

In addition, prior to training to meet the requirements of NFPA 1001, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, personnel shall undergo a background investigation and character traits as reference, established by the chartered fire training program.

Program directors serve as the AHJ of chartered fire training programs, and are therefore responsible to ensure that all firefighter candidates meet the requirements listed in Chapter 1 of NFPA 1001 prior to entrance into any initial firefighter certification course listed above.

Please contact the Division of EMS Education Section at FireEducation@dps.ohio.gov or (614) 466-9447 with questions or concerns.

Note: For further information on NFPA Codes and Standards, please see:

<http://www.nfpa.org/docinfo>

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