



MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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Licensing Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters have to be licensed?

A: Per the statute it is mandatory for full-time firefighters to be licensed as a condition of their employment in Minnesota. It is optional for paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters to be licensed; it is not required by law.

Q: I don't plan to become licensed but I still have questions about the 72 hour continuing education. Can you explain more?

A: Only licensed firefighters who wish to renew their license will need to comply with the continuing education requirement. The 72 hour continuing education requirement will be verified by the fire chief or chief designee on the license renewal application or online renewal application process.

Q: Can you explain the employment verification form on the website?

A: Every licensed firefighter must be affiliated with a fire department in the state.

Q: What is the advantage for paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters to become licensed?

A: The decision for paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters to license is a personal decision or department decision. The Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education is required to carry out the statute which requires all full-time employed firefighters to be licensed. Licensing helps to establish and maintain professional standards that fire departments can use for recruitment and retention of firefighters.

Q: Who pays for the firefighter license? Does the firefighter pay or the city/township pay for licensing?

A: The MBFTE statute does not distinguish who shall pay for the license. The cost of the license is \$75 for a three-year period.

Q. Will our license status affect our ability to apply or be awarded FEMA grants?

A: No, Minnesota firefighter license status will not affect anything with FEMA. The license is required for full-time firefighters, by law, as a condition of their employment.

Q: After a firefighter has been licensed for three years what requirements are necessary in order for them to renew their license?

A: They will have had to complete 72 hours of continuing education as certified by the fire chief, submit a renewal application or renew online and pay the \$75 fee.

Q: I have been told that if I became licensed during the grandfathering period I will also be IFSAC FF2 certified. Is that true?

A: No, that is not true. The only way to become IFSAC FF2 certified is with the Minnesota State Fire Certification Board. Licensing under the grandfathering period only provides a firefighter with a Minnesota Firefighter license.

The complete statute may be found at:

<https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=299N&view=chapter>