



2008 CHANGES FOR FIREFIGHTER AND HAZ-MAT

As of **November 1, 2009**, the test instruments for **NFPA 1001** and **472** were impacted due to a compliance requirement set by the Pro Board and to ensure that our test instruments reflect the current standard. These changes impacted **Registered Volunteer Firefighter** (NFPA 1001), **Firefighter** (NFPA 1001), and **Hazardous Materials** (NFPA 472) test instruments. Below each test instrument will be covered along with the identified changes. However, along with changes come some challenges, so here are some challenges that have been identified.

What if a candidate initially tested under the previous standard?

The candidate will be allowed to test under the previous standard, until their retest attempts expire. Once their retest attempts expire, they will need a new prerequisite form, which will be set to the new standard or test instrument, to be eligible to test again.

A candidate tested under the old skills testing for Firefighter I, but did not pass and there are no skills testing available for the previous skills testing. Can the candidate test under the new skills testing and be eligible for Pro Board Firefighter I certification?

Yes, the candidate can test under the new skills testing. However, the candidate will receive a Pro Board certification to the previous (2003) edition of the standard instead of the current edition of the standard. Because, for Pro Board certification the individual must complete two components of the test instrument to be eligible for certification, which the individual had to test under two separate editions of the standard to meet both components. But, the reason the previous edition will be the identified edition of the standard certified, is because the 2008 edition of the standard requires a candidate to hold Pro Board certification at the Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations level before an application will be awarded. In addition, before a candidate can challenge the new skills testing for Firefighter 1, the candidate will need a completed task book and will need to familiarize themselves with the 21 Life Safety Skills.

REGISTERED VOLUNTEER FIREGHTER (MOD 1) 2008 EDITION

Module 1 is now going to be referred to as **Registered Volunteer Firefighter (RVF)**. The database now has an abbreviation for RVF. Candidates testing for volunteer status will now take the Registered Volunteer Firefighter exam. The test instrument is validated to **parts of the 2008 edition of NFPA 1001** and **the latest reference materials for firefighter from IFSTA, Delmar, and Jones and Bartlett**, when applicable. Also, with RVF the test bank was validated using some of the Georgia Fire Academy staff to ensure that the test questions were appropriate for this level according to the Registered Volunteer Firefighter program.

FIREFIGHTER 1 2008 EDITION

State requirements for a candidate to be eligible to test for Firefighter will only require a signed prerequisite form and picture ID. For **Pro Board** certification, candidates will need in addition to the requirements above, a completed task book and hold Pro Board Certification in both the **Hazardous Material Awareness** and **Operation Level** before they are eligible to receive a Pro Board certification for **Firefighter 1 2008 edition**. However, a candidate can test for the written component with only the signed prerequisite form and picture ID for either State or Pro Board. The completed task book comes into play when a candidate is ready to test the skills, which now a candidate is evaluated on [21 Life Safety Skills](#) (for a list of the skills visit our website). On skills test day a candidate shall present to the test monitor a **completed task book**, which the test monitor will review and sign-off. The monitor is then instructed to **tear off** the **Verification/Certification Page** (page 2), and attach it to the test packet results behind the candidate worksheets. Candidates can test both **written** and **skills** for **Firefighter 1** before holding certification in **Hazardous Materials Awareness** and **Operations**, but their Pro Board certification will be pending until they obtain Awareness and Operations certifications with Pro Board. Task books are available on our website, under Test Related Forms then click on Task Books.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS 2008 EDITION

For Pro Board certification, a candidate will need a signed prerequisite form and picture ID to be eligible to test. Changes from the **2003** and **2008** test instrument include an **increase of test questions for the written (50 versus 40)**, **increase of skills test questions (Part IV now has 4 questions, so now a candidate can miss one question from each section and still pass)**, and **new identified grading criteria**, such as spelling and legible writing (still more to come for office grading, suggestions needed). However, the **20 minute** time will still stay in effect for the skills testing. A practice test is available on our website for candidates and departments to use to prepare for testing the skill portion, under Exam Prep Guides.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL OPERATIONS 2008 EDITION

For Pro Board certifications, a candidate will need a signed prerequisite form and picture ID to be eligible to test. Changes from the **2003** and **2008** test instrument include an **increase of test questions** (100 versus 50) and **some changes to the previous skills sheets** (*visit the website for a list of the skills*). **For example**, Diversion and Diking were separated (*committee felt the candidates were not able to identify the difference between the two, when they were combined*), Emergency Decontamination Procedures was added as a mandatory skill for testing, and various changes to the skills sheets on objectives needed to be accomplished by candidate.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TECHNICIAN 2008 EDITION (INCOMPLETE)

We have an extension from the Pro Board, so the 2003 test instrument will still be used until the 2008 test instrument is validated by committee and approved by the Pro Board.

Summary

Several changes to the test instruments for **NFPA 1001** and **472** have been identified, however the changes are to help improve an evaluation tool to aid in identifying a competent candidate at an identified level. A perfect evaluation tool is not possible only an improved instrument is possible. The test instruments are developed by a cross-section of fire service personnel that are considered as subject matter experts by their department or agency. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our agency.

Sincerely,

Chad Cobb

Public Safety Manager II

Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council