



Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council

STATE CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATOR

Certification/Compliance Information

Effective July 1, 2004, anyone employed by a recognized and certified fire department as a Fire Investigator must meet the employment and training requirements as established by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. Individuals may seek recognition as a Fire Investigator providing he/she is registered with GFSTC as a volunteer or part-time firefighter and is a member of a certified fire department, or is employed by a city, county or state governmental entity. The following describes those requirements as approved by the Council.

Anyone employed or who seeks a state certificate, as a Fire Investigator must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction.
3. Have a good moral character as determined by investigation under procedure approved by the council. The same procedure for determining good moral character for firefighters will be used for Fire Investigators as well.
4. Be fingerprinted and a search made of local, state, and national fingerprint files to disclose any criminal record.
5. Possess or achieve within 12 months after employment/appointment a high school diploma or a general education development equivalency.
6. Successfully challenge the Georgia Fire Investigator Certification Examination

The Required Minimum Initial Training for Fire Investigators is the Arson Investigations Level 1 and Level 2 Courses as taught by the Georgia Police Academy or accepted equivalent.

Fire Investigator Re-certification Procedure:

The Fire Investigator should demonstrate the ability to perform basic investigation skills, which is reported to this agency by one of two methods. Fire departments may indicate on the GFSTC report that the Investigator has performed basic investigation skills (core competencies) during the calendar year or submit a letter under the signature of the Agency Head or his/her designee stating these skills have been demonstrated. In addition, the Investigator must have a minimum of 24 hours of training in relevant GFSTC pre-accepted training program(s) annually.

Recognition of Investigator Incumbents –

Until 12/31/2006:

1. Anyone who has completed both of the Arson Investigation Courses and is currently P.O.S.T. certified as an Arson Investigator is deemed as having met the initial requirements for Fire Investigator and will be issued a certificate as such.
2. Anyone who has been performing the duties of a Fire Investigator since 07/01/2004 and completed both of the Arson Investigation Courses and passes the Arson Investigator certification examination and has completed the employment requirements specified is deemed as having met the initial requirements for Fire Investigator and will be issued a certificate as such.

Investigator training and testing requirements beginning 01/01/2007:

Option A:

1. Completed the Level 2 Arson Investigation Course taught by the Georgia Police Academy.
 2. Challenges and passes the Fire Investigator certification examination within one year prior to the date of certification.
 3. If the date of completion of the Arson Investigator Level 2 Course is in excess of 60 months or prior to 07/01/2004, (which ever is the lesser), the candidate must:
 - a. Present proof of an average of 24 hours per year of accepted Fire Investigator training.
- OR
- b. Present documentation to the Georgia Fire Investigator Review Committee requesting acceptance recommendation through a combination of training and/or experience as a Fire Investigator.

Option B:

1. Completed training as determined by the Georgia Fire Investigator Review Committee as equal to or exceeding the Level 1 and 2 Arson Investigation Courses as taught by the Georgia Police Academy.
 2. Challenges and passes the Arson Investigator certification examination within one year prior to the date of certification.
 3. If the date of completion of the equivalent training course is in excess of 60 months or prior to 07/01/2004, (which ever is the lesser), the candidate must:
 - a. Present proof of an average of 24 hours per year of accepted Fire Investigator training.
- OR
- b. Present documentation to the Georgia Fire Investigator Review Committee requesting acceptance recommendation through a combination of training and/or experience as a Fire Investigator.

Georgia Fire Investigator Review Committee:

The Georgia Fire Investigator Review Committee shall function with an advisory capacity to Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council and consist of subject matter experts such as representatives from the following:

- Georgia State Fire Marshal or his/her representative
- Georgia Fire Academy Director or his/her representative.
- A County Fire Department fire investigator
- A City/Municipal Fire Department fire investigator
- A Sheriff's Department fire investigator
- A City/Municipal Police Department fire investigator
- Georgia Fire Investigators Association President or his/her representative
- A Georgia District Attorney, Georgia Assistant District Attorney, or a representative of the Georgia Prosecuting Attorney Council