



In Service Since 1948

To: Municipal Fire Training
Program Coordinators

Date: December 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Non-MFSI Fire
Instructor I, II Local Programs

Purpose:

This policy is for the purpose of MFSI instructor trainers and any Maine Fire Service member who seeks to present the Fire Instructor I & II programs in the field as an instructor trainer. The Fire Instructor course is an in-depth professional instructional program that demands individuals who are presenting this curriculum are professional, experienced and further understand the responsibilities they hold in sending students into the field to present lessons to prospective firefighting candidates. He or she shall have significant experience in the subject matter taught. Students have expressed confidence in instructors who have demonstrated competence in the subject matter through experience; in turn, experience opens the door for the instructor to reach the minds of the students. Even so, good instructors understand that they cannot rely on experience alone. Instructor trainers must remain vigilant to their dynamic environment and gather the newest information, technology, and skills to remain current within an ever-changing work and instructional environment. The mission for MFSI is to ensure that instructor trainers meet the qualifications set forth by NFPA professional standards.

Effective January 1st 2020 the Maine Fire Service Institute will no longer allow non-MFSI instructed Fire Instructor candidates to sit for Pro-Board Certification Exams unless the following criteria have been met:

- Qualified Instructors hold a Fire Instructor II Qualification in accordance with NFPA 1041
- Qualified Instructors have attended a Train the Trainer Program administered by MFSI
- Qualified Instructors shall have attended a NFPA 1403 Program
- Annual documented professional development by valid training agency on the topic of fire instruction
- Candidate Evaluations (final presentations) shall be evaluated by qualified MFSI Instructors

This policy comes in light of questions posed to MFSI by concerned fire officials on consistency of programs and fairness to all that achieve a Pro-Board Fire Instructor Qualification through MFSI. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions.

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Explanations:

Bullet #1 – In order to teach a valid program you must hold that level of certification that you are instructing for validity and reliability.

Bullet #2 – The train the trainer is a common practice in Maine and has been for many years. In order to provide a quality training experience to the candidate you must have all the modern tools and materials. When you attend a TtT from MFSI all these will be provided to you, including the supporting documentation in order for your candidates to sit for Pro-Board Certification with MFSI.

Bullet #3 – There are many NFPA 1403 programs available through different training organizations. We are looking for a basic understanding of the Live Fire Training Standard (NFPA 1403); a valid certificate will be sufficient. MFSI offers a basic introduction to Live Fire Training.

Bullet #4 – Continuing education in fire instruction is extremely important. Documented valid training shall be submitted to MFSI if you have been qualified to teach a Fire Instructor Program.

Bullet #5 – All candidates shall be evaluated by qualified MFSI instructor(s) in order for them to sit for the certification exam. This is similar to evaluation of Fire Fighter Skills at our skills end tests. MFSI shall review the presentation to ensure the candidate is capable of delivering safe and efficient fire training.

NOTE: The Maine Fire Service Institute does not discourage any agency from conducting the training on their own. Rather, we are simply looking to ensure fairness and equity to all that sit for Pro-Board Certification.

