



Program Description

The Recruit Firefighter Program is a 70-day resident course that focuses on developing the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for the newly hired career firefighter or for the volunteer firefighter to perform entry-level tasks under direct supervision. The training consists of theory and practical skills development delivered on an incremental basis that will develop the maximum retention of job knowledge, skill competency, and safe practices.

The recruit will establish a strong will for teamwork, company morale, self-discipline, and orderliness, precision and conduct to be a firefighter. Participation in daily Physical Fitness Training is required. Recruits will reside at the Connecticut Fire Academy weekdays throughout the course. The recruits are expected to satisfactorily perform both academically and physically to established standards while strictly adhering to and maintaining decorum of conduct, discipline and mutual respect.

Recruits participate in over 195 of Theory, 410 of Practical Skills and 40 of Testing hours during training. Recruits may dedicate over 800 hours over the 14 weeks learning to be firefighter. The program's content is developed with cooperation and approval of the Connecticut Career Fire Chief's Association.

NFPA 1971 compliant Structural Firefighting Protective Clothing (PPE), compliant SCBA with cylinder and 2 additional spare cylinders is required.

The Recruit Firefighter Program's prerequisites consist of:

- The applicant is at least 18 years of age, has a high school diploma or GED, and has the general capacity for adult learning.
- The applicant is an employee of the Fire Department or affiliated as an active member/volunteer of the Fire Department for a minimum of 6 months.
- The applicant has documented proof of meeting the fire department's Medical and Physical Fitness requirements.
- The applicant has a valid IAFF/IAFC Candidate Physical Abilities Test (CPAT) card dated within 2 years prior to the programs start date.
- The applicant is emotionally fit to perform firefighting evolutions without special considerations, and where applicable, to meet the 29 CFR 1910.134 standard for the use of respirators (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus).

Recommended prerequisites:

- EMR/MRT minimum Emergency Medical Service training
(Required EMS training for Rescue Tech – CORE / Medical training is offered at CFA if needed)
- NIMS for the Fire Service, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents & NIMS 700
(NIMS related courses can only be delivered online through the NFA web site)
- Meet the Baseline Physical Fitness Standards outlined in the Connecticut Firefighters Physical Fitness Assessment and Preparation Guide.

The course fee includes tuition, student manuals, lodging, required clothing, breakfast and lunch. The Recruit Firefighter Program has also been approved for Veterans Administration / Educational Benefits and endorses the Hero-to-Hero program which transitions our military members towards First Responder careers.



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The Recruit Firefighter Program meets the following NFPA standards listed below:

NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

This standard identifies the minimum requirements for firefighter candidates, and for those at the Firefighter I and Firefighter II levels. It requires familiarity with specific procedures, equipment, and conditions outlined in the standard. This standard is used as the basis for the curriculum of the Recruit Firefighter Program that exceeds the minimum requirements of the **Firefighter I and Firefighter II levels**.

NFPA 1072: Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications

Recruits are trained to the competency requirements of this standard for responders to hazardous materials incidents at the **Operational level**.

After successful completion of the above requirements, the Recruit is tested and certified to NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II level.

NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents

The standard outlines the level of “functional capability” for those who respond to technical search and rescue incidents. **Awareness level** training is delivered with the goal of teaching the recruits how to conduct operations safely and effectively while minimizing threats to rescuers. Awareness level training is delivered for Surface Water, Trench, Rope, Collapse and Wilderness Search and Rescue operations.

NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications

Also known as **Rescue Technician CORE**, the course is designed to enhance the Recruit’s ability to perform critical skill sets to meet the intent of NFPA 1006 General Requirements (Chapter 5) in the field of technical rescue and is the starting point for the new rescue technician. The applicant must have EMR/MRT certification as minimum EMS Training in order to complete the Rescue Technician CORE course.

NFPA 1407: Standard for Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews

The Recruit Firefighter Program’s **Fireground Survival** course is intended to develop the skills and knowledge to perform self-rescue and find and remove a trapped firefighter from a burning building. The course meets the Job Performance Requirements outlined in the standard.

Recruits receive Certificate of Completion for the following courses delivered during the program:

- Autism Awareness for First Responders
- Awareness to Active Violence Incident Response
- Awareness of Elevator and Escalator Emergencies
- Awareness of Gas and Electrical Utility Emergencies
- Basic Report Writing / NFIRS
- Basic Vehicle Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue – OSHA compliant Operational Level
- Cultural Diversity
- Developing Fireground Decision Making
- Firefighter Tools for a Healthy Career
- Fireground Survival
- Introduction to Thermal Imaging Cameras
- Introduction to Fire Evidence & Investigation
- Introduction to Truck and Engine Operations
- Modern Fire Dynamics
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation - Courage to be Safe
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation – Stress First Aid
- NFPA 1006 – Rescue Technician CORE Competencies
- NFPA 1670 – Technician Search & Rescue – Awareness

After successful completion of the Recruit Firefighter Program requirements, the Recruit will receive a **Recruit Firefighter Program** course completion certificate.

Applications for the Program are available on the Connecticut Fire Academy web site approximately one month prior to the scheduled start of the Recruit Class.

Visit the Recruit Firefighter Program web page, go to:

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control web site: <http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/site/default.asp>

Recruit Firefighter Program (on left tab)

For questions; Email: CFPCRecruit@ct.gov