

To: Administration & Finance Executive Committee
From: Tyler Moffitt, Fire Chief/CEMC
Date: October 16, 2018
Subject: Mandatory Training & Certification Regulation Update

Background:

On Friday October 5, 2018, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services revoked the Mandatory Training and Certification Regulation. The Minister did agree in principle with the certification of all firefighters.

Keep in mind, this regulation was revoked on the premise of how it was rolled out and imposed on municipalities.

On a second note, the community risk assessment and public reporting regulations will come into effect as scheduled.

Fire Chief / CEMC Summary:

Firefighter Certification Regulation - This certification regulation being revoked does remove the time stipulations on obtaining certifications, which will make it easier on current and future new firefighters.

However, the **NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Standards** for the **Ontario Training Curriculum** has been in place since **2012**; it is the only international standard recognized for training and certification throughout North America.

Our Fire & Rescue Service has always worked towards training and certification to the **NFPA Standards**.

Going forward, we need to continue with ensuring all our personnel are trained and certified to a recognized level; we **train** and **certify** for **competency, health & safety**, and for **results**.

In fact, training is the primary factor in handling an emergency incident.

As well, ensuring our team is trained and certified to a recognized and competent level greatly aids in going up against any type of a MOL investigation or an audit.

As a Fire Chief, and member of the OAFC (Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs) I believe that mandatory training and certification is the right step forward, which ensures our teams ability to **protect** the **economy** of **our community**, as well as the **people, property**, and the **environment**.

Meanwhile, any future new mandatory training and certification regulation that the provincial government adopts needs to have a timeframe, which will allow personnel to complete training and certification at a rate of speed that is more accommodating and appropriate.

It is time for a generational shift in the way we provide our Fire and Emergency Services to our communities ... we need to embrace forward-thinking, as well as the concept of modernizing our Fire and Emergency Service by way of Mandatory Training Certification.

Supervisor Requirements - When appointing a supervisor, the employer must ensure the person is competent - Section 27 of the Occupational Health & Safety Act.

The supervisor must have enough knowledge, training and experience to organize the work and how it is to be performed.

NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 1 meets the requirements for a supervisor based on the job performance requirements as stipulated in the standard. However, to take this course, the firefighter must first complete **NFPA 1001 (Firefighter Qualifications) Level 1 & 2** and **NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials Operations Level**. In fact, this is a prerequisite for the majority of all **NFPA Certification Courses**.

In closing, certification recognizes fire service personnel with specialized skills and an ability:

- to provide quality, competent service;
- provides fire service personnel with opportunities to evaluate and document their performance, and compare their skills to each competency and the overall standard;
- acknowledges a fire service personnel's commitment to ongoing training and lifelong learning;
- provides a concrete training path to follow;
- will support the credibility of fire service personnel in the completion of their regular and special activities such as, dealing with litigation;
- highly motivated people will continue to be attracted to the fire service because of certification.

Respectfully submitted,



Tyler Moffitt
Fire Chief/CEMC
Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service