Fire Fighter Licensing Impacts

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1A Course

This important information concerns a new law (AB 1648) effective January 1, 2011 that eliminates the restricted commercial fire fighter driver's license and replaces it with a fire fighter endorsed license. Since the restricted license was a prerequisite to attend the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator course, SFT needed to devise an alternative for this prerequisite.

New Prerequisite for
Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1A
Effective January 1, 2011

Option 1:
Hold a California Class C driver's license and a signed verification of driving fire apparatus on a public way signed by you and your Fire Chief. This form is attached and also available on our website under "Forms and Information."

Option 2:
Hold a California Class A, B, or C driver's license with the fire fighter endorsement.

Replacement Pages for
Instructor Guide and Student Supplement

Replacement pages that reflect the changes required due to this new law can be downloaded from the "Instructor's Corner" on our website.

If you have any questions or need additional clarification please contact Mary Wilshire at (916) 327-2129.

Verification form on the following page.
4.3.1 Operate a fire department vehicle, given a vehicle and a predetermined route on a public way that incorporates the maneuvers and features, specified in the following list, that the driver/operator is expected to encounter during normal operations, so that the vehicle is operated in compliance with all applicable state and local laws, departmental rules and regulations, and the requirements of NFPA 1500, Section 4.2.

(1) Four left turns and four right turns
(2) A straight section of urban business street or a two-lane rural road at least 1 mile in length
(3) One through-intersection and two intersections where a stop has to be made
(4) One railroad crossing
(5) One curve, either left or right
(6) A section of limited-access highway that includes a conventional ramp entrance and exit and a section of road long enough to allow two lane changes
(7) A downgrade steep enough and long enough to require down-shifting and braking
(8) An upgrade steep enough and long enough to require gear changing to maintain speed
(9) One underpass or a low clearance or bridge

A fire department vehicle for this section requires a GVWR greater than 26,000 pounds.

VERIFICATION FOR:

______________________________
Printed Name

______________________________
Fire Agency

I, the undersigned, am the person applying for admission to a Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1A course. I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, completion of all components of NFPA 1002, Section 4.3.1.

______________________________
Signature
______________________________
Date

FIRE CHIEF:

or Authorized Representative:

______________________________
Fire Chief's (Authorized Representative's) Printed Name

I, the undersigned, am the person authorized to verify the applicant’s driving experience. I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that completion of all components of NFPA 1002, Section 4.3.1 are true in every respect.

______________________________
Fire Chief's (Authorized Representative's) Signature
______________________________
Date

AB 1648: Firefighter's Operation of Firefighting Equipment requires applicants to meet the driver training requirement by completing a State Fire Marshal Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1A course that meets Chapter 4 of NPFA 1002. Section 4.3.1 of Chapter 4 requires driving on a public way, which is not a part of the Driver/Operator 1A course. Verification of this experience prior to attending the class is a prerequisite.