



## ***Fire Company Officer 1***

### **General Accreditation Information**

#### **Performance Standard**

The NFPA 1021-2009 edition, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, will be the performance standard referenced for Fire Company Officer 1 Certification.

#### **Entrance Requirements**

The Fire Company Officer 1 candidate must meet the following entrance requirements before certification can be issued:

- Candidate must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- Candidate must possess a nationally recognized certification to the Fire Fighter 2 in accordance with NFPA 1001 through IFSAC or ProBoard.
- Candidate must possess a nationally recognized certification to the Fire Service Instructor 1 in accordance with NFPA 1041 through IFSAC or ProBoard.

#### **Program Requirements**

The instruction and evaluation given a Fire Company Officer 1 candidate who achieves certification is critical to ensuring a quality program. Training and evaluation of students must be accomplished by qualified individuals, certified at the prescribed level. All evaluators shall be contracted employees of the Bucks County Community College.

#### **Candidate Evaluation**

Evaluation of the candidate for certification is an important process. Candidates are evaluated in a manner that is completely separate from the educational and training process.

#### **Physical Fitness Requirement**

The candidate's sponsoring agency should ensure the candidate meets the requirements of NFPA 1582, Standard on Medical Requirements for Fire Fighters and Information for Fire Department Physicians, within a reasonable period of time prior to entering into physical training or testing to ensure his or her ability to safely perform the required tasks.

#### **Written Examination**

The written examination measures the cognitive skills of the Fire Company Officer 1 will follow guidelines set forth in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Bucks County Community College. The examination will be randomly generated and consist of one hundred (100) questions. Candidates will have a maximum of 2 hour and 30 minutes to complete the examination. A score of 70% or above shall constitute a passing grade for the candidate.

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**Bucks County Community College**  
Department of Public Safety Training and Certification

1760 South Easton Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
Ph: 215.340.8417  
Fax: 215.343.6794  
[www.bucks.edu/publicsafety](http://www.bucks.edu/publicsafety)

**Written Examination Re-Test Policy**

Candidates who are unsuccessful (Less than 70%) on the written test will be allowed to retake the test up to two (2) times within one (1) year of the original test. The one year time frame can be extended at the Director of Certification's discretion. After three (3) unsuccessful attempts the candidate will be required to seek remediation that is approved by the Certification Department on a case by case basis. All candidates eligible for re-testing may be given one chance to re-test if time and materials are available on the same day as their initial test, but are not permitted to test more than two (2) times in one day.

**Practical Examination**

Practical examinations are intended to measure the practical skills of the Fire Company Officer 1 will follow guidelines set forth in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Bucks County Community College. The agency is capable of testing 100% of the practical objectives; however, the examination may only test a pre-selected percentage based on the testing scenarios provided to the evaluator. A score of 100% for the pre-selected skills shall constitute a passing grade for the candidate.

**Practical Examination Re-Test Policy**

Candidates receiving unsatisfactory grades on *more than 25%* (**Note: not less than two skill stations if testing less than eight skill stations**) will fail the skills test and be advised that they should seek remedial education and reapply for additional certification tests.

Candidates receiving unsatisfactory grades on *less than 25%* (**Note: less than two skill stations if testing less than eight skill stations**) will be allowed to retest those unsatisfactory grades. All candidates re-testing will be allowed to retest a skill station at a subsequent test date up to two (2) times, within one (1) year of the original test, or if the station allows by making an appointment to retest the station at an approved and designated site by the Certification Department. The one year time frame can be extended at the Director of Certification's discretion. All candidates eligible for re-testing may be given one chance to re-test if time and equipment are available on the same day as their initial test, but are not permitted to test more than two (2) times in one day.

**Appeal**

All candidates have the right to appeal the decision of the certification department, so long as the appeal is submitted in writing and in accordance with the Policies and Procedures of the Bucks County Community College.

**Reciprocity**

Any Fire Company Officer 1's certified by another agency accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) or National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) may be granted an equivalency certificate upon verification of the original certificate. This shall be in effect for any discipline edition that the agency is currently accredited to issue certificates.

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### **Recertification**

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, certification is a voluntary process and currently there is no process or requirement for recertification. Each certificate issued to a candidate indicates the discipline and edition year that they were evaluated under at the time of certification. New certificates are not issued when the discipline changes.

### **Testing Assistance**

Candidates who require assistance in completing the written examination should have an IEP or other formal evaluation attesting to this need. The candidate is required to submit the documentation and completed Special Education Accommodation form to the Certification Department for evaluation at least ten (10) business days prior to your scheduled test. After receiving the documentation you will be contacted with the outcome of what accommodations can be arranged if any.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

The expectation at Bucks County Community College is that the principles of truth and honesty will be rigorously followed in all academic endeavors. This assumes that all work will be done by the person who purports to do the work without unauthorized aids. In addition, when making use of language and some idea not his or her own, whether quoting them directly or paraphrasing them into his or her own words, the student must attribute the source of the material in some standard form, such as naming the source in the text or offering a footnote. (Source: Bucks County Community College Policy Regarding Cheating and Plagiarism)

### **Background Check**

The candidate will be required to sign a statement that attests to the candidate has never been convicted of an offense that constitutes the crime of “arson and related offenses” under 18 Pa.C.S §3301 or any similar offense under any Federal or state law. “I understand that if I knowingly make any false statement herein, I am subject to penalties prescribed by law, including, but not limited to, a fine of at least \$1,000.”

### **Certification Issuance**

Certificates indicating successful completion of the requirements set forth under the National Fire Protection Association standards shall be issued by the Bucks County Community College when the candidate has met all requirements for certification.

### **Recommended Classes**

- Fire Company Officer 1 (FSC-0645) 40 hours

### **Required Text**

“Fire Department Company Officer,” IFSTA, Fourth Edition.

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