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# FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

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Proposed Minimum Standards for Fire Marshal Certification.



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FMAO  
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## **Background**

The Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma recognizes the need to have formal minimum standards requirements in order to ensure all aspects of fire prevention are understood within the State of Oklahoma. Credentialing, certification and higher education in conjunction with experience play a vital role in helping to establish the minimum expectations for the position of Fire Marshal within our public safety sector.

At its core, minimum standards act as a baseline, setting expectations for knowledge, skills, and ethical behavior within a profession. Credentialing processes, such as certifications and licenses, then become the tangible proof of an individual's commitment to these standards. This validation not only instills confidence among consumers and employers but also promotes a culture of continuous improvement.

The impact of these standards is particularly evident in sectors where public safety is paramount, such as first response, healthcare and construction. Licensed professionals in these fields are held to rigorous standards to guarantee the well-being of the public. Similarly, certified professionals in engineering ensure the safety of structures, creating a sense of security for all stakeholders involved.

Beyond safeguarding public safety, minimum standards and credentialing play a crucial role in professional development. Ongoing education and development requirements associated with credentials ensure that individuals within a profession stay current with evolving practices and technologies. This dynamic, informed, and continually improving workforce benefits not only professionals but also the external stakeholders for which they serve.

Furthermore, the legal and ethical considerations tied to these standards cannot be overlooked. Regulatory bodies establish minimum standards to protect the public interest and maintain ethical practices within professions. Compliance not only shields professionals from legal consequences but also upholds the integrity of the industries they represent.

In essence, minimum standards and credentialing are integral components of a responsible and thriving professional landscape. By embracing and upholding these standards, individuals and industries contribute to a society built on trust, competence, and the perpetual pursuit of excellence.

## ***Overview***

### **Fire Marshal / Fire Marshal's Office**

The Fire Marshal is required to meet the Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) of chapters 4 and 5 of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1037, *Standard on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications*, 2016 edition.

#### **Definition of a Fire Marshal**

A Fire Marshal is an individual who has met the requirements of chapter 4 and 5 of *NFPA 1037, Standard on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications* and has the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform as a Fire Marshal:

- A person designated to provide delivery, management, and/or administration of fire protection- and life safety-related codes and standards, investigation, education, and/or prevention services for local, county, state, provincial, federal, tribal, or private sector jurisdictions as adopted or determined by the entity.

#### **Core Responsibilities for Fire Marshals:**

- Administrative Duties
  - AHJ SOPs, budget, policy development
  - Report forms, templates, example documents
- Origin and Cause Investigation
  - Continuing education in compliance with NFPA 1033
- Community Risk Reduction
  - Community Risk Analysis – Development and Implementation
  - Data Analysis
  - QA/QI
- Community Relations
  - Professionalism
  - Customer Service
- Professional Development
  - Continued education
  - Multiple CEU standards

#### **Mission Specific Responsibilities:**

- Regulatory programs (Inspections / Code Administration)
- Fire and Life Safety Education
- Fire Origin and Cause Investigations

## ***Minimum Certifications***

### **Basic Fire Marshal Certification**

- (1) Holding a minimum, Instructor I certification - IFSAC / Pro-Board
- (2) Holding as a minimum, Fire Investigator Training through the National Fire Academy (80 -Hr Essentials Course) and/or IFSAC/Pro-Board within 1-year of appointment as available.
- (3) Holding as a minimum, Fire Inspector I certification through IFSAC/Pro-Board or ICC
- (4) Holding as a minimum, Fire and Life Safety Educator I - IFSAC / Pro-Board or CEU Transcript
- (5) A minimum of 2 CRR courses at the National Fire Academy - Self Study (Online)

### **Advanced Fire Marshal Certification**

Advanced Fire Marshal certification holders shall maintain and hold all required **Basic Fire Marshal** requirements as well a *minimum* of four (4) of the following including the time requirement set forth by six (6):

- (1) Community Risk Reduction CEUs for the previous 4 years of appointment
- (2) Holding Fire Plans Examiner - IFSAC / Pro-Board or ICC / NFA
- (3) Fire Officer III - IFSAC / Pro-Board or a Bachelor's Degree in Leadership, Business Management or Fire Service/Science Related Field
- (4) Fire Inspector II - IFSAC / Pro-Board or ICC
- (5) Meeting minimum requirements as set forth by IAAI to test for Certified Fire Investigator and each area of requisite knowledge and job performance requirements as outlined in the current version of NFPA 1033.
- (6) Have a minimum of four (4) years of experience within a fire prevention division or 60 hours of college semester hours or an associate degree, which includes at least 18 college semester hours in any combination of Fire Science and/or Criminal Justice. College-level courses from both the upper and lower divisions may be used to satisfy the education requirements for Advanced Fire Marshal Certification

Appointment of credentialing shall be made by a credentialing committee appointed by the Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma with assistance from the Oklahoma International Association of Arson Investigators. A full curriculum vitae (CV) or resume review will be submitted to verify the knowledge, skills and validity of the applicant's experience and education.

## Reference Standards and Textbooks

*Purchase, D. (2019). Chief Officer: Principles and Practice, 3RD Ed., United States: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284172478*

*Chief Officer, 4th Ed., (2019). International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA). ISBN:978-0-87939-644-2 (Chapter 2-5)*

*Walker, B. (2021). Community Risk Reduction Principles and Practices. United States: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284195057*

*Fire and Life Safety Educator: Principles and Practice, 2nd Ed., (2016). United States: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 1284041972*

*Fire and Life Safety Educator, 3rd Ed., (2011). International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA). ISBN: 978-0-87939-396-0*

*Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement, 8th Ed., (2017). International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA). ISBN: 978-0-87939-592-6*

*Fire Inspector: Principles and Practice. Revised 1st Ed., (2016). United States: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 1284137740*

*Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice, 6th Ed., (2022). United States: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 1284247724*

National Fire Protection Association. *NFPA 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations*. Current Edition. NFPA. ISBN-13 978-1455926466

National Fire Protection Association. *NFPA 1033: Standards for Professional Qualification for Fire Investigator*. Current Edition. NFPA. ISBN- 978-1455928156

National Fire Protection Association. *NFPA 1037: Standard on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications for the Minimum Core and Mission-specific*. Current Edition. NFPA. ISBN- 978-145591311-4

National Fire Protection Association. *NFPA 1300: Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development*. Current Edition. NFPA. ISBN-13 978-1455923175

National Fire Protection Association. *NFPA 1730: Standard on Organization and Deployment of Fire Prevention Inspection and Code Enforcement, Plan Review, Investigation and Public Operations*. Current Edition. NFPA. ISBN-13 978-145920846

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