



*Fire Fighter
Certification*



Fire Service Qualifications

Safe, Qualified Fire Service Personnel

Fire Service Certification Regulations were enacted to protect communities and fire fighters by ensuring appropriate services are delivered to the community through the training, knowledge and certification of primary fire service job classifications in Ontario.

The removal of the regulation has started to create a two-tier system in Ontario where municipalities who do not participate expose themselves to added risk through civil litigations due to fire losses and enforcement. Additionally, the question must be raised, that if the most basic of certifications for fire suppression are not enforced, how safe are our sons and daughters who work in these communities?

Supported by Many

Certification of positions in the fire service has been supported by the OPFFA, government, Fire Chiefs, the Ontario Fire Marshall's office and several Ontario Coroner's Jury verdicts.

In recent inquests the activities conducted by fire service inspectors, communications personnel and company officers have been highlighted as very significant in the safety of our communities. As mentioned earlier, certification to the international fire service standards of the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) will correct a patchwork of unstructured service and knowledge levels across Ontario municipalities.

A Little More about Certification

The previously adopted Fire Service Certifications, based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, were supported publicly by fire industry groups and professionals at the Fire Safety Technical Table. In their deliberations, this panel of experts and representatives reviewed Ontario fire statistics, civilian and fire fighter deaths, Ontario Coroner's Inquest documents and anecdotal testimony.

With the Ontario abandonment of all certification, departments/municipalities that choose not to maintain the industry best practice of these reasonable minimum standards risk lowering the standards of their fire service in public education, fire code enforcement, fire suppression and related emergency communications and safety of fire fighters.

The OPFFA seeks to work with the Minister to reinstate Fire Service Certification Regulations under the FPPA, focusing on the highest risk functions as they relate to fire fighters and public safety. The OPFFA will be considerate of timelines and resources in our discussions but will hold tight to the level of certification for these very dangerous and life critical job functions.

Our Ask

We ask that you write to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General and the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier to request a timely reinstatement of the Fire Safety Technical Table to provide input in establishing a reasonable timeline to reinstitute the Fire Certification Regulations.

Copies of correspondence and further inquiries should be forwarded to:

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