

Certification / Licensure?

Tis clearly the question of the hour...

Certification is and always has been voluntary. Since 1989 the Minnesota Fire Certification Board, which has representatives from every Fire Service Organization in the State has provided IFSAC accredited testing to the National Standard. In 2008 we added ProBoard.

Licensure is voluntary for volunteers but mandatory for career. The Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education which was established by the 2007 Legislature was tasked by the 2009 Legislature to administer the Fire Fighter Licensing Program.

Licensure (after the grandfather period) is based on three things:

1. You will have to pass a test administered by an IFSAC Accredited Agency which Minnesota has one, the MSFCB. (Which Minnesota has one.)
2. Be employed by a fire department or public safety agency.
3. Pay the fee.

Thus; you never had to certify before nor do you have to in the future; it has always been optional. You will have to license your full time, rest of your folks are optional.

Presumably, the licensure test will be based on the certification testing you and your staff have already completed and build upon that. The Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education has established a committee that will make this determination.

The Certification Board did not initiate the bill nor were we advocates. The board has been following this closely and has corresponded with the Training Board about what they envision for our role, what service we would provide, and the interaction that would occur. They are working thru the details as we speak.

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