

**MARYLAND FIRE SERVICE
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS
BOARD, INC.**



2020 / 2021 ANNUAL REPORTS

JUNE 20, 2022

MFSPQB Annual Report

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**Maryland Fire Service Personnel
Qualifications Board, Inc.**
c/o Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute
4500 Campus Drive
College Park, Maryland 20742
(301) 226-9922 or (301) 226-9926
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Dear Friends of the Maryland Fire Service:

As the Chair of the Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board, Inc. (MFSPQB), it is an honor and privilege to present to you our annual report for CY 2019. This report serves as a testimony to the continued leadership of the Maryland Fire Service within the realm of certification and professionalism. We are currently being challenged with the COVID19 pandemic but have adjusted our operating parameters to assure continued service to our constituents and provide for ongoing certification availability. Our commitment to the statewide certification system remains focused and consistent in the midst of adversity.

This year we are in our 34th year of operation as the "Voluntary Fire Service Certification System" within the State of Maryland. Our accomplishments in the area of certification are certainly one of the stellar achievements of the American fire service today. Maryland and the MFSPQB continue to be recognized nationally and internationally at the forefront of professionalism. When we met in Annapolis in 1986 with a recommendation from the MFRETC no one ever imagined that a concept would prove to be such a success and that it would define the professionalism of our fire service for generations.

Our system only exists due to the consistent cooperation that is fostered both internally and externally. We acknowledge the continued close working relationship between the MFSPQB and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI). The unparalleled support provided by MFRI continues under the leadership of Executive Director Michael E. Cox. This is further validated by our ongoing relationship with MFRI staff who provide structure and support to the MFSPQB, specifically; Mr. Robert Rose, Ms. Grace Sokolowski, and Mr. Jack Beall. These certification professionals assure that our daily operations are consistent and maintain the relationships with our accrediting entities and local jurisdictions throughout the state.

The relationship that has been forged with our Accredited Training Review Agencies (ATRA's), who serve as an extension of the MFSPQB within the jurisdictions throughout our state has become a model for other entities. We also continue to provide leadership to both of our accrediting bodies, the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

As a consensus based organization, our members serve as our governance. This includes both the jurisdictional representatives from each county and the major cities in Maryland as well as representation from the major fire service organizations. These include the Maryland State Firemen's Association, the Professional Firefighters of Maryland, The Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI) the State Fire Marshal, the Council of Fire/Rescue Academies, the Maryland Fire Chief's Association, and the Maryland Fire Rescue Education and Training Commission (MFRETC) from whom we were created. We are also indebted to each member agency delegate and alternate for their support and continued service.

Through our continued accreditation by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) we maintain a standard of excellence. The Maryland System continues to offer consistent validation that is reciprocal throughout the nation and in many parts of the world. Our current "model" of certification has become the template for much of the fire service. It is our goal to solidify this even further through quality assurance and improvement efforts.

Our mission and its fulfillment continue through the unique dynamics that exist in our state's fire service and its associated organizations. Throughout the state you can consistently see our logo displayed as the standard of "personnel excellence." Our certifications, numbering more than 175,000 encompass all areas of fire service credentialing. From Fire Fighter to Fire Officer to implementation of new standards, we continue to embrace fire service personnel qualifications and enable recognition of professionalism through certification to national standards.

We must assure our mission of certification continues and prepare for our future challenges by developing a "vision". This vision must be consistent with the direction of the fire service and the interests of professionalism. We must work with our constituencies to maintain their involvement and commitment to professionalism through certification. In that spirit of progress we present to you our annual report. Please take the time to review this report and provide feedback as to how we can make a great system even better.

Michael Robinson
Chair, MFSPQB

Recognizing Education and Training Excellence through Certification

Mission:

To recognize, through certification, achievements in training and education by fire service personnel.

Goals:

- Initiate, administer, and promote the Maryland Voluntary Fire Service Certification System.
- Review courses of study and recommend curriculum that will lend to standards of certifications.
- Publish recommendations in regard to levels of education achievement.
- Distribute literature and publications that promote certification.
- Establish and provide for uniformity in regard to courses of study and training that lend to standards of certification.

Philosophy:

Certification system based upon our training and education programs, thus "program-based certification." With this philosophy;

- ✓ training and education programs are standardized,
- ✓ programs are objective driven,
- ✓ programs are educationally sound,
- ✓ programs are safe,
- ✓ programs address and encompass the respective national standard; 100%,
- ✓ evaluate students to the respective national standard through quizzes, written and practical examinations, and skills performance evolutions/evaluations, and
- ✓ continue to evaluate our system by self-evaluation, visitation, and statistical review.

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Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board, Inc.

An Overview of the History of Maryland's Voluntary Fire Service Certification System

On October 9, 1982, the Maryland Fire-Rescue Education and Training Commission adopted its Five Year Plan. This plan included a recommendation that the Commission foster the concept that all programs developed in the state of Maryland conform as closely as possible to the requirements of the National Professional Qualifications Standards. As a result of this report, on November 4, 1982 a subcommittee was charged with developing and presenting a method for implementation of a professional certification, or other appropriate system, for the certification of the fire service personnel in the state of Maryland. The board was incorporated in 1986.

On May 22, 1986 at the State House in Annapolis, the first official meeting of the Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board, Inc. was held. At the meeting the first Chairperson, Deputy Chief James Heller of Howard County Fire Department, was elected along with Vice Chair William Cooke of Charles County. On July 1, 1988 the MFSPQB opened the window for grandfathering certification. On July 1, 1990 the grandfathering program concluded after two full years and over 12,000 firefighters were certified in the state of Maryland.

In 1991, the MFSPQB applied for and received national accreditation from the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ).

In the early stages of 1992, application procedures were instituted and jurisdictional representatives were challenged to promote new levels of Program Certification. In April of 1992 the MFSPQB applied for and received accreditation at the NFPA 472 (Hazardous Materials) Operational and Technician levels. Maryland was the first state to receive this level of accreditation.

In December of 1992 the MFSPQB finished out the window for national compliance certification under the NBFSPQ. During the calendar year 2,472 firefighters received National Compliance recognition. During late 1992, the MFSPQB experienced a positive expansion by accepting the Maryland Council of Fire/Rescue Academies into full membership.

During 1993 the MFSPQB was asked to serve on the Executive Committee of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute Long Range Development Group. The organization was also invited by Dr. Kirwan of the University of Maryland to participate as a member of the MFRI Board of Advisors.

In early 1994, the MFSPQB contracted with the Special Programs Section of MFRI to serve as the testing arm of the group. As a result, challenge exams were developed and implemented. MFSPQB Chair Michael Robinson was re-elected to a three-year term on the NBFSPQ Committee on Accreditation. As 1994 progressed, the MFSPQB began offering certification for Haz-Mat Awareness, Incident Commander and EMS Haz-Mat Responders. The MFSPQB was honored to offer a program overview on Maryland's system at the NBFSPQ at their conference at Singer Island, Florida.

In early 1995, the MFSPQB expanded again as the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office was accepted into full membership. In late 1995, the MFSPQB offered a program on the Maryland system at the National Volunteer Fire Council Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. In early 1996 Renee Barrett, an informational specialist with the Baltimore County Fire Department, assumed the role of Public Relations chair. Two task forces were also appointed: the "currency" task force was appointed to explore issues of continuing education and recertification as it relates to the Maryland fire service and the "business plan" task force worked to address the fiscal year needs and ensure future growth.

In July 2003, MFRI was visited by an inspection team from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Based on their findings the Certificate Assembly of the IFSAC officially endorsed Maryland certification programs at their fall meeting on September 27, 2003. The MFSPQB was approved for nine (9) certifications. Applicants could then receive MFSPQB, NBFSPQ and IFSAC certification for Firefighter I and II, Fire Officer I and II, Fire Inspector I and II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations and Technician. An IFSAC site visit team visited again in July 2008 and found the 9 previously approved certification levels to be in full compliance with accreditation criteria. In 2013, the MFSPQB added another 19 levels during its regular IFSAC site visit bringing the total number of levels accredited to 28. During the 2018 IFSAC site visit 2 additional levels were added.

During 2016, the MFSPQB conducted reaccreditation site visits of all the Accredited Training Review Agencies (ATRA). Each agency was successful in its site visit and all ATRA's were reaccredited.

At the NBFSPQ Annual Meeting in January 2018, Larry Preston retired from his position on the Committee on Accreditation after over 20 years as a key member of this group. Ron Hassan was elected to the Committee on Accreditation at the same meeting. Later in 2016, Ron Hassan was appointed to the IFSAC Council of Governors. In the ensuing months both Larry and Ron have retired from MFRI, in January 2019 and April 2019 respectively. Jack Beall, Jr. of MFRI, has been appointed as the Maryland representative to both the Pro Board and IFSAC and John Carnegis has recently been named the MFRI Certification Manager.

The MFSPQB recently acquired Pro Board accreditation for Live Fire Instructor and for Live Fire Instructor In-Charge. The MFSPQB is currently accredited by the NBFSPQ for 52 certification titles and by IFSAC for 32 titles.

Our Certification database also continues to expand. We have added 10,022 certifications over the past two years, bringing our total to 175,784.

The Corona Virus pandemic has brought us new challenges but the MFSPQB continues to maintain operations and issue certifications. We continue to adapt and work with our allied agencies and customers to serve the needs of the fire and emergency services community through these trying times.

The fire and emergency service personnel in the State of Maryland continue to have access to one of the most successful certification systems in the United States. Thank you to everyone who has helped us in this overwhelmingly successful venture.

**MARYLAND FIRE SERVICE
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS BOARD, INC.**

Board of Directors

CHAIR

Michael Robinson
Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

VICE CHAIR

Eric Peterson
Md. Council of Fire & Rescue Academies

SECRETARY

Daniel Stevens
Maryland State Firemen's Association

TREASURER

Russell J. Strickland
Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Maryland State Firemen's Association
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland
Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute
Maryland Fire/Rescue Education & Training Commission (MFRETC)
Maryland Council of Fire & Rescue Academies
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Members of the Verification Review Group (VRG)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

F. E. "Ted" Porter
Maryland Higher Education Commission (Retired)

** Appointed by the Board of Directors and serves in a non-voting capacity.

MARYLAND FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS BOARD, INC.

Membership Roster

ALLEGANY COUNTY	Delegate: Dennis Bonner Alternate: Calvin Walbert
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY	Delegate: John Shoemaker Alternate: Robert Rose
BALTIMORE CITY	Delegate: Alexander J. Perricone Alternate: Robert McMillen
BALTIMORE COUNTY	Delegate: Timothy B. Rostkowski Alternate: Carl "Butch" Morgenstern
BWI AIRPORT	Delegate: Michael S. Frazer Alternate: Matthew D. Morean
CALVERT COUNTY	Delegate: Monty Parks Alternate: Brian L. Thrasher
CAROLINE COUNTY	Delegate: Lou Hayes Alternate: John Hurley
CARROLL COUNTY	Delegate: Jeff Alexander Alternate: Leon Fleming
CECIL COUNTY	Delegate: Wayne Tome, Sr. Alternate: Antonio Leonardi
CHARLES COUNTY	Delegate: Paul Tackish Alternate: <u>vacant</u>
CITY OF HAGERSTOWN	Delegate: Richard Hopkins Alternate: Richard Kipe
CITY OF SALISBURY	Delegate: Anthony Webster Alternate: Brooks Morris
DORCHESTER COUNTY	Delegate: Robert P. Phillips Alternate: Alfred Travers
FREDERICK COUNTY	Delegate: Francis Malta Alternate: Michael Webb
GARRETT COUNTY	Delegate: Rodney Bowser Alternate: <u>vacant</u>
HARFORD COUNTY	Delegate: Gary Kadolph Alternate: Brandon Watkins

HOWARD COUNTY	Delegate: Joseph R. Ross Alternate: Dale Becker
IAFF- PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS OF MARYLAND	Delegate: Andrew Doyle, Sr. Alternate: Thomas Harmon
KENT COUNTY	Delegate: <u>vacant</u> Alternate: Randy Smoot
MARYLAND COUNCIL OF FIRE AND RESCUE ACADEMIES	Delegate: Eric Peterson Alternate: Lisa Mayers
MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE INSTITUTE	Delegate: Jack W. Beall, Jr. Alternate: Russell Strickland
MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION	Delegate: Michael W. Robinson, Sr. Alternate: William E. Barnard
MARYLAND STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE	Delegate: Gregory Der Alternate: <u>vacant</u>
MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION	Delegate: Donald L. Howard Alternate: Daniel Stevens
MARYLAND FIRE/RESCUE EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMISSION	Delegate: Lynn D. Gilroy Alternate: Eric D. Proctor
MONTGOMERY COUNTY	Delegate: Adam Jones Alternate: Frantz Pinthiere
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	Delegate: Gary L. Krichbaum Alternate: Craig E. Smith
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY	Delegate: Greg Johnston Alternate: Charles Jester
SOMERSET COUNTY	Delegate: Donald L. Howard Alternate: <u>vacant</u>
ST. MARY'S COUNTY	Delegate: George J. Gatton, Jr. Alternate: Richard Redmond
TALBOT COUNTY	Delegate: <u>vacant</u> Alternate: Dale Smith
WASHINGTON COUNTY	Delegate: C. Kingsley Poole Alternate: John Latimer, IV
WICOMICO COUNTY	Delegate: Eric Tyler Alternate: Essel T. "Tad" Farlow, III
WORCESTER COUNTY	Delegate: Tim Jerscheid Alternate: John Fisher

(Revised 2-3-2021)

Maryland Voluntary Fire Service Certification System Statistics CY-2020 & 2021

CERTIFICATION TITLES*	CY-2020	CY-2021
NFPA 472, Responder to Hazardous Materials/WMD Incidents:		
HMA - Hazardous Materials Awareness (472-A)	88	100
HMOP - Hazardous Materials Operations for Fire Fighters (472-O)	121	106
HMT - Hazardous Materials Technician (472-T)	20	15
HMIC - Hazardous Materials Incident Commander (472-IC)	10	3
NFPA 1001, Fire Fighter:		
FFI - Fire Fighter I (1001-1)	301	413
FFII - Fire Fighter II (1001-2)	305	374
NFPA 1002, Fire Apparatus Driver Operator:		
FADOP - Fire Apparatus Driver Operator - Pump (1002-P)	134	106
FADOA - Fire Apparatus Driver Operator - Aerial (1002-A)	84	110
FADOT - Fire Apparatus Driver Operator - Tiller (1002-T)	34	38
FADOARF - Fire Apparatus Driver Operator - Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (1002-ARFFA)	16	17
FADOMWS - Fire Apparatus Driver Operator - Mobile Water Supply (1002-MWS)	51	60
NFPA 1003, Airport Fire Fighter:		
AFF - Airport Fire Fighter (1003-AFF)	44	80
NFPA 1005, Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Firefighters:		
AFF - Airport Fire Fighter (1003-AFF)	0	1
NFPA 1006, Technical Rescuer:		
1006RTR - Rope Technical Rescuer I & II (1006-RTR 1-2)	47	97
1006CSTR - Confined Space Technical Rescuer I & II (1006-CSTR 1-2)	126	119
1006TTR - Trench Technical Rescuer I & II (1006-TTR 1-2)	50	66
1006SCTR - Structural Collapse Technical Rescuer I & II (1006-SCTR 1-2)	6	33
1006VTR - Vehicle Technical Rescuer I & II (1006-VTR 1-2)	241	265
1006SWTR - Surface Water Technical Rescuer I & II (1006-SWTR 1-2)	37	59
1006STR - Swiftwater Technical Rescuer I & II (1006-STR 1-2)	36	61
NFPA 1021, Fire Officer:		
FOI - Fire Officer I (1021-1)	168	197
FOII - Fire Officer II (1021-2)	101	145
FOIII - Fire Officer III (1021-3)	61	92
FOIV - Fire Officer IV (1021-4)	36	65
NFPA 1031, Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner:		
FII - Fire Inspector I (1031-1)	114	131
FIII - Fire Inspector II (1031-2)	42	82
FIIII - Fire Inspector III (1031-3)	21	35
1031-PE1 - Plan Examiner I (1031-PE1)	39	58
1031-PE2 - Plan Examiner II (1031-PE2)	39	57
NFPA 1033, Fire Investigator:		
FIN - Fire Investigator (1033)	17	25

NFPA 1035, Fire and Life Safety Educator:		
10351 - Fire and Life Safety Educator I (1035-1)	11	22
10352 - Fire and Life Safety Educator II (1035-2)	0	0
10353 - Fire and Life Safety Educator III (1035-3)	0	0
1035PIO - Public Information Officer (1035-PIO)	0	1
NFPA 1041, Fire Service Instructor:		
INSTI - Fire Service Instructor I (1041-1)	224	255
INSTII - Fire Service Instructor II (1041-2)	88	162
INSTIII - Fire Service Instructor III (1041-3)	82	150
NFPA 1061, Public Safety Telecommunicator, Chapters:		
PSTI - Telecommunicator I (1061-1)	1	18
PSTII - Telecommunicator II (1061-2)	1	16
NFPA 1072, Hazardous Materials Responder:		
Haz Mat Responder - Awareness (1072-A)	172	279
Haz Mat Responder - Core Operations, PPE & Product Control (1072-O)	215	329
Haz Mat Responder - Operations / Mass Decontamination (1072-O/MD)	147	223
Haz Mat Responder - Operations / Technical Decontamination (1072-O/TD)	145	223
Haz Mat Responder - Operations / Evidence Preservation (1072-O/EP)	25	26
Haz Mat Responder - Operations / Detection, Monitoring & Sampling (1072-O/DMS)	141	212
Haz Mat Responder - Operations / Victim Rescue & Recovery (1072-O/VRR)	142	210
Haz Mat Responder - Operations / Response to Illicit Laboratories (1071-O/RIL)	26	26
Haz Mat Responder - Technician (1072-T)	36	107
Haz Mat Responder - Incident Commander (1072-IC)	19	32
NFPA 1521, Fire Department Safety Officer:		
1521HSO - Health & Safety Officer (1521-10)	59	50
1521ISO - Incident Safety Officer (1521-20)	35	40
1521ISOFS - Incident Safety Officer - Fire Suppression (1521-30)	79	102
1521ISOEMS - Incident Safety Officer - EMS Operations (1521-40)	13	11
1521ISOTR - Incident Safety Officer - Technical Rescue / Special Operations (1521-65)	66	66
1521ISOHMO - Incident Safety Officer - Hazardous Materials Operations (1521-50)	38	49
MFSPQB, Emergency Medical Services Officer:		
EMSOI - Emergency Medical Services Officer I (EMSOI)	32	34
MCMERG, Fire/Rescue Boat Crew:		
FRBCMI - Fire/Rescue Boat Crew-Mate I	7	3
FRBCMI - Fire/Rescue Boat Crew-Mate II	6	3
FRBCMVO - Fire/Rescue Boat Crew-Motor Vessel Operator	6	0
MFSPQB, Shipboard Fire Fighter:		
SFA - Shipboard Fire Fighter-Awareness	1	1
SFO - Shipboard Fire Fighter-Operations	0	1
MFSPQB, Live Fire Training Instructor:		
LFTI - Live Fire Training Instructor	70	58
Program Certifications Issued (Current Edition, Options 1 thru 5):	2672	3992
Previous Edition Certifications Issued (Option 6):	1604	1757
TOTAL CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED:	4276	5749