

MARYLAND FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS BOARD



ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 15, 2009



Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board, Inc.

c/o Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute

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Administering the Maryland Voluntary Fire Service Certification System An Accredited Entity of the National Professional Qualifications System "ProBoard"

June 15, 2009

Dear Friends of the Maryland Fire Service:

As the chair of the Maryland Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board (MFSPQB), it is again an honor and privilege to present to you our annual report for CY2008. This report serves as a testimony to the continued leadership of the Maryland Fire Service within the realm of certification and professionalism.

This year we are in our 23rd 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 as the forefront of professionalism.

Our system only exists due to the consistent cooperation that is fostered both internally and externally. At the forefront of this effort have been Director Steven T. Edwards, and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. The unparalleled support provided by Mr. Robert Rose, Ms. Evelyn Graf, Ms. Patricia Keely, Mr. Lawrence Preston and other MFRI staff is unprecedented. Also noteworthy is 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.

As a consensus based organization our members serve as our governance. This includes both the jurisdictional representatives from each county and major city in Maryland as well as representation from the major fire service organizations. These include the MSFA, the MD/DC Professional Firefighters Association, the State Fire Marshal, the Council of Fire/Rescue Academies and the Maryland Fire Rescue Training Commission (MFRETC) from who we were created. It is also through the commission that we gratefully receive the services of Mr. F.E. "Ted" Porter who serves as our executive secretary. We are certainly indebted to them for their support.

Through our continued national accreditation by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ) and the International Fire Service Accreditations 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 this country's 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 95,258 now encompass all areas of the fire service. From Firefighter to Fire Officer to Fire Service Instructor to Safety Officer we have embraced all fire service personnel qualifications and have enabled recognition of professionalism through certification.

We must assure our mission of certification and prepare for our future challenges by development of 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 towards this professionalism through certification. In that spirit of progress we present to you our annual report and certification manual.

Michael Robinson
Chair, MFSPQB

Recognizing Education and Training Excellence Through Certification

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, 1988 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 to cover all professional qualifications standards. MFRI proudly came online as an ATRA with the ability to certify at all NBFSPQ levels. Chairman Michael Robinson was re-elected to a three-year term on the NBFSPQ Committee on Accreditation. The Certification Board administered its first Fire Officer I challenge examination on April 16, 1994 with 34 people taking the exam.

As 1994 progressed, the MFSPQB began offering accreditation for Haz Mat Awareness, Incident Commander and EMS Haz Mat Responders. The Board was honored to offer a program on Maryland's system at the NBFSPQ at their conference at Singer Island, Florida.

In March 1995, the MFSPQB took a major step forward as MFRI began regular challenge exams for specific programs. During this reporting period, Special Programs offered exams for Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II. The Certification Board also expanded in early 1995 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 Certifications 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 will now receive MFSPQB, NPQB and IFSAC certification for the following programs: Firefighter I and II, Fire Officer I and II, Fire Inspector I and II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations and Technician.

Our Certification database continues to expand. We have added over 7081 certification this year bringing our total to 95,258.

IFSAC performed a site visit in July 2008 and found the 9 previously approved certification levels to be in full compliance with accreditation criteria. We became accredited for 15 additional levels bringing the total IFSAC accreditation levels to 24.

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 overwhelming successful venture.

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,

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

**MARYLAND FIRE SERVICE
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS BOARD**

CHAIR

Michael Robinson
Baltimore County

**ACCREDITATION TRAINING
REVIEW AGENCIES TASK
FORCE**

Russell J. Strickland

VICE CHAIR

R. Keith Fairfax Jr.
MFRTEC

FISCAL COMMITTEE

R. Keith Fairfax Jr.
MFRETC

TREASURER

Russell J. Strickland
Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Vernon Horsmon
Calvert County

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

F. E. "Ted" Porter
Maryland Higher Education Commission

SECRETARY

Gary Warren
BWI Airport

**MARYLAND FIRE SERVICE
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS BOARD
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

ALLEGANY COUNTY	Representative: Dennis Bonner Alternate: Calvin Walbert
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY	Representative: Reinhold Strobel Alternate: Robert Rose
BALTIMORE CITY	Representative: Edward J. Cooper Alternate: Terry Horrocks
BALTIMORE COUNTY	Representative: Michael Robinson Alternate:
BWI AIRPORT	Representative: Gary Warren Alternate: Gary Pace
CALVERT COUNTY	Representative: Vernon Horsmon Alternate: Monty Parks
CAROLINE COUNTY	Representative: Lou Hayes Alternate:
CARROLL COUNTY	Representative: Jeff Alexander Alternate: Leon Fleming
CECIL COUNTY	Representative: Wayne Tome Alternate: Robert Holmes
CHARLES COUNTY	Representative: Paul Tackish Alternate: Gus Bowling
CITY OF HAGERSTOWN	Representative: Richard Hopkins Alternate: Richard Kipe
CITY OF SALISBURY	Representative: Lt Lorenzo R. Cropper Alternate: FF/PM Anthony Webster
DORCHESTER COUNTY	Representative: Robert P. Phillips Alternate: Alfred Travers
FREDERICK COUNTY	Representative: Richard E. Himes Alternate: Gene Mellin
GARRETT COUNTY	Representative: Rodney Bowser Alternate: Patricia Bowser
HARFORD COUNTY	Representative: Larry Mabe Alternate:

HOWARD COUNTY

Representative: Chris Shimer
Alternate: Eric Proctor

**IAFF- PROFESSIONAL
FIREFIGHTERS OF MARYLAND**

Representative:
Alternate: Thomas Harmon

KENT COUNTY

Representative: Gregg Bird
Alternate: Randy Smoot

**MARYLAND COUNCIL OF FIRE
AND RESCUE ACADEMIES**

Representative: Eric Peterson
Alternate: William Holzberger

**MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE
INSTITUTE**

Representative: Lawrence Preston
Alternate: Russell Strickland

**MARYLAND STATE FIRE
MARSHAL'S OFFICE**

Representative: William Barnard
Alternate: Chief Flanagan

**MARYLAND STATE FIREMENS
ASSOCIATION**

Representative: Donald L. Howard
Alternate: Daniel Stevens

**MARYLAND FIRE/RESCUE EDUCATION
& TRAINING COMMISSION**

Representative: Gregory James DeHaven
Alternate: R. Keith Fairfax

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Representative: Mike Clemens
Alternate: Matthew Kenworthy

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Representative: Leroy Smith IV
Alternate: Craig Smith

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Representative: Greg Johnston
Alternate: Charles Jester

SOMERSET COUNTY

Representative: Donald L. Howard
Alternate:

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Representative: George J. Gatton, Jr.
Alternate: Mike Roberts

TALBOT COUNTY

Representative: James Ferguson
Alternate: Dale Smith

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Representative: C. Kingsley Poole
Alternate: John Latimer IV

WICOMICO COUNTY

Representative:
Alternate: Dean Beach

WORCESTER COUNTY

Representative: Trevor Steedman
Alternate: Jeff McMahan

Maryland Voluntary Fire Service Certification System

Certification Statistics for CY2007 (January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008)

	TOTAL CY07	TOTAL 08
NFPA 472, Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents, 2002, Chapters:		
4 HMA - Awareness (472-A)	229	403
5 HMFR - Operational (472-O)	401	614
6 HMT - Technician (472-T)	216	219
7 HMIC - Incident Command (472-IC)	65	128
NFPA 1001, Fire Fighter, 2002 edition, Chapter 2, General Requirements, Paragraph 2-3 (Emergency Medical Care Training), and Chapters:		
5 FFI - Fire Fighter I (1001-1)	399	622
6 FFII - Fire Fighter II (1001-2)	419	485
NFPA 1002, Fire Department Vehicle Driver/Operator, 2003 edition, Chapter 2, General Requirements, and Chapters:		
4 AND 5 FADOP - Pump (1002-P)	235	221
4 AND 6 FADOA - Aerial (1002-A)	173	179
4 AND 7 FADOT - Tiller (1002-T)	41	42
4 AND 9 FADOARF - Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Apparatus (1002-ARFFA)	44	19
4 AND 10 FADOMWS - Mobile Water Supply (1002-MWS)	55	57
NFPA 1003, Airport Fire Fighter, 2005 edition, Chapter:		
3 AFF - Airport Fire Fighter (1003)	10	67
NFPA 1006, Rescue Technician, 2003 edition, Chapters:		
5 AND 6 RTRR - Rescue Tech-Rope Rescue (1006-RTRR)	70	76
5 AND 7 RTSWR - Rescue Tech-Surface Water Rescue (1006-RTSWR)	36	51
4 AND 8 RTVMR - Rescue Tech-Vehicle & Machinery Rescue (1006-RTVMR)	477	558
5 AND 9 RTCSR - Rescue Tech-Confined Space Rescue (1006-RTCSR)	103	113
5 AND 10 RTSCR - Rescue Tech-Structural Collapse Rescue (1006-RTSCR)	25	26
5 AND 11 RTTR - Rescue Tech-Trench Rescue (1006-RTTR)	48	47
NFPA 1021, Fire Officer, 2003/2009 edition, Chapters:		
4 FOI - Fire Officer I (1021-1)	165	335
5 FOII - Fire Officer II (1021-2)	129	226
6 FOIII - Fire Officer III (1021-3)	90	120
7 FOIV - Fire Officer IV (1021-4)	141	49
NFPA 1031, Fire Inspector, 2003 edition, Chapters:		
4 FII - Inspector I (1031-1)	233	267
5 FIII - Inspector II (1031-2)	146	149
6 FIIII - Inspector III (1031-3)	83	91
7 FPEI - Plan Examiner I (1031-PE1)	50	72
8 FPEII - Plan Examiner II (1031-PE2)	51	70
NFPA 1033, Fire Investigator, 2003 edition, Chapter:		
4 FIN - Investigator (1033)	22	42
NFPA 1035, Public Fire and Life Safety Educator, 2005 edition, Chapters:		
2 PFEI - Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I (1035-1)	10	67
3 PFEII - Public Fire and Life Safety Educator II (1035-2)		
4 PFEIII - Public Fire and Life Safety Educator III (1035-3)		
5 PIO - Public Information Officer (1035-PIO)		
NFPA 1041, Fire Service Instructor, 2002/2007 edition, Chapters:		
4 INSTI - Instructor I (1041-1)	312	509
5 INSTII - Instructor II (1041-2)	210	192
6 INSTIII - Instructor III (1041-3)	238	188
NFPA 1061, Public Safety Telecommunicator, 2002/2007 edition, Chapters:		
4 PSTI - Public Safety Telecommunicator I (1061-1)		1
5 PSTII - Public Safety Telecommunicator II (1061-2)		1
NFPA 1081, Industrial Fire Brigade Member 2001/2007 edition, Chapters:		
5 Incipient Industrial Fire Brigade Member (1081-IIFBM)		
6 Advanced Exterior Industrial Fire Brigade Member (1081-AEIFBM)		

7	Interior Structural Industrial Fire Brigade Member (1081-ISIFBM)		
8	Industrial Fire Brigade Leader (1081-IFBL)		
NFPA 1521, Fire Department Safety Officer, 2002 edition, Chapters:			
5	HSO - Health & Safety Officer (1521-HSO)	122	167
6	ISO - Incident Safety Officer (1521-ISO)	52	75
6.3	ISOFS - Incident Safety Officer-Fire Suppression (1521-ISOFS)	132	154
6.4	ISEMSO - Incident Safety Officer-Emergency Medical Service Operations (1521-ISOEMSO)	125	146
6.5	ISOHMO - Incident Safety Officer-Hazardous Materials Operations (1521-ISOHMO)	84	84
6.6	ISOSO - Incident Safety Officer-Special Operations (1521-ISOSO)	97	108
Fire/Rescue Boat Crew, 2000 edition, as developed by the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute, endorsed by the Mid-Chesapeake Marine Emergency Response Group and adopted by the MFSPQB:			
	FRBCMI - Fire/Rescue Boat Crew - Mate I	30	12
	FRBCMII - Fire/Rescue Boat Crew - Mate II	24	14
	FRBCMVO - Fire/Rescue Boat Crew - Motor Vessel Operator	23	10
Shipboard Firefighter, 2000 edition, as developed by the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute, endorsed by the Mid-Chesapeake Marine Emergency Response Group and adopted by the MFSPQB:			
	SFA - Shipboard Firefighter - Awareness Level	24	2
	SFO - Shipboard Firefighter - Operations Level	27	3
GRAND TOTAL			
		5677	7081