



WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Officer Standard

Effective Date: 04/17/2003

Approval: 04/17/2003

Number of Pages: 5

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Purpose:

To establish training requirements and certification standards for fire & rescue operational officers in Washington County. These requirements apply to volunteer and career personnel engaging in similar operational duties. A time schedule is established to phase in the application requirements for existing personnel to ensure that new standards can be met without adversely affecting the delivery of fire and rescue services.

Definitions:

Career	Fire or rescue personnel who are employed by the Washington County Commissioners, WCVFRA or an employee of a volunteer corporation.
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
EMT -B course	Emergency Medical Technician - Basic training
FF I	Fire Fighter I, Essentials I-IV, or Basic Firefighting Course
FF II	Fire Fighter II training course.
First Responder	Firefighter First Responder Course
IMS	Incident Management System
MFRI	Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute
Officer Level I	Fire Officer Level I or EMS Officer Level I
PEAF	Protective Envelope and Foam training course
Pump Operator	Pump Operator Course
Rescue Technician	Rescue Technician - Basic training course.
WCVFRA Association.	The Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Applicability:

This policy applies to any new and existing fire fighter, rescuer, and emergency medical personnel, both career and volunteer, who are engaged in fire fighting, rescue, or emergency medical services activities.



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Compliance with this policy is required under the WCVFRA Standards Enforcement Policy previously adopted July 18, 1996.

This standard does not apply to specialty companies such as the Washington County Rehab Unit, or the Washington County Air Unit. It is required of by these agencies that all there officers complete an Incident Management Class.

Action(s):

It is the policy of the Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association that all fire fighter, rescuer, and emergency medical personnel serving in the capacity of an operational officer, must meet the minimum training and certification standards outlined herein to be eligible to serve Washington County and participate in the integrated incident command system. The training and experience requirements are defined by this policy.

These training and certification requirements will take effect immediately for new members to the Washington County Fire & Rescue System. These training and certification requirements will take effect on January 1, 2006 for Individuals who entered the Washington County Fire & Rescue System prior to January 1, 2003. The delayed implementation of this policy will provide adequate time for individuals not in compliance with these standards to complete the applicable training and obtain the needed certifications.

The following operational officer ranks shall be recognized by the Washington County Government and the Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association:

- Chief (Fire Chief, Rescue Chief or EMS Chief)
- Deputy Chief
- Assistant Chief
- Captain
- Lieutenant
- Sergeant



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Local fire, rescue or EMS departments may include or require additional lower level operational officers. However, only officer positions at or above the Sergeant level will be recognized in the IMS.

Grand Fathering Provision:

The Grand fathering provision recognizes prior experience and training as equivalent to the training and experience requirements for the rank to which an individual is being grand fathered. The grand fathering provision below applies to all fire and rescue personnel who entered the Washington County System prior to January 1 of 2003.

The Grand fathering provision expires, and **all** personnel must comply with this policy after January 1, 2006.

The minimum training and certification requirements for operational officers shall be as follows:

Training Requirements:

Position	Minimum Training	Valid Certifications
EMS Chief EMS Deputy Chief EMS Assistant Chief	EMT-B Haz. - Mat Operations FF 1 or PEAFF Officer Level I	CPR EMT-B
EMS Captain EMS Lieutenant EMS Sergeant	EMT-B Haz. - Mat Operations FF 1 or PEAFF	CPR EMT-B
EMS / Rescue Chief EMS / Rescue Deputy Chief EMS / Rescue Assistant Chief	EMT-B Haz. - Mat Operations FF 1 Officer Level 1 Rescue Technician	CPR EMT-B



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EMS / Rescue Captain EMS / Rescue Lieutenant EMS / Rescue Sergeant	EMT-B Haz-Mat Operations FF 1 Rescue Technician	CPR EMT-B
Fire / Rescue Chief Fire / Rescue Deputy Chief Fire / Rescue Assistant Chief	Firefighter II Officer Level 1 Haz. - Mat Operations Rescue Technician Pump Operator*	CPR FF First Responder EMT-B**
Fire / Rescue Captain Fire / Rescue Lieutenant	Firefighter II Haz. - Mat Operations Rescue Technician Pump Operator*	CPR FF First Responder
Fire / Rescue Sergeant	Firefighter 1 Haz Mat Operation Rescue Technician	CPR FF First Responder

* Indicates that Pump Operator does not apply to an EMS company that operates a Fire Squad

** EMT-B & Rescue Tech. doesn't apply if not providing a rescue squad or EMS service.

Pumps Operator Qualifications refers to either MFRI course completion or Departmental Validation.

The officers within a company must meet the qualifications for each service(s) provided within that company. In example, a fire or EMS company that operates a Fire Squad must meet the Fire Officer Qualifications. A fire or EMS company that operates a rescue engine or a rescue squad must meet the Rescue Officer Standards.

All training requirements indicated herein are considered as the course identified or the equivalent training program previously or currently offered by the MFRI. Exams successfully challenged through the MFRI are equally accepted.



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Certifications accepted in the Washington County system include the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, National Safety Council, Maryland Fire Service Qualifications Board, the National Fire Service Qualifications Review Board, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System, the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and WCVFRA Certified Hazardous Material Operations.

Personnel who have obtained the training requirements outside of Washington County or the MFRI jurisdiction shall contact the MFRI regional offices to register for the challenge exam.

The Highest Administrative Officer of each company shall provide the WCVFRA with appropriate verification for each operational officer functioning within the company by April 15th of each year. Failure to provide the appropriate level of documentation to validate the training and certification requirements contained herein shall be considered as a violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Standards Enforcement Policy.

Any chief operational position requires a minimum of five (5) years experience in fire & / or rescue operations. A captain or lieutenant position requires three (3) years experience in fire & / or rescue operations. A Sergeant requires two (2) years experience in fire & / or rescue operations.