



NOTICE TO FIRE SERVICE

4/17/08

In order to participate in the Division of Personnel Standards and Education's fire fighter certification program, an individual must meet the requirements by being employed on an Illinois fire department. See Rule Section: **Section 141.200 State Examinations**

e) Prerequisites. A candidate for Firefighter II examination must be engaged in firefighting in an organized Illinois fire department as a fire protection person or trainee according to the Act as attested to by the employing Illinois Fire Chief of the individual seeking certification.

The OSFM has confirmed that Fire Chief's are "sponsoring" individuals in order for the individual to partake in the basic level of firefighting training which includes participating in the Division of Personnel Standards and Education's certification program. The statute requires that individuals must be "employed" in order to participate in the program. This practice will not be tolerated. Departments that "sponsor" individuals but do not "employ" the individual jeopardize reimbursement funding, the individual's certification and the ability to attest to training of their employees. Departments that knowingly provide the training of those individuals jeopardize their course approval.

These individuals are listing the "sponsoring" fire department on the paperwork but are not listed on the fire department roster. Also, the "sponsoring" Fire Chief is signing the Application For Certification/Validation-Attestation sheet in order for the individual to become certified at the basic firefighter levels of certification. The Application for Certification/Validation-Attestation sheet includes an affirmative statement by the employing Fire Chief which states:

"By my signature as employing Fire Chief, I certify this individual is an employee of my fire department meeting specifications in 50 Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) 740/2, Illinois Fire Protection Training Act. I attest that this applicant has exhibited experience and documentation exists supporting the appropriate Illinois Administrative Code. All certification training requirements for this individual have been met, applicable practical skill evolutions have been successfully accomplished, and training records exist substantiating this documentation and are available for review by the Division of Personnel Standards and Education."

According to our rules, by signing the Application for Certification as a "sponsoring" Fire Chief, the Fire Chief and Fire Department/Training Academy/School are violating the rules that govern the Division of Personnel Standards and Education certification program.

If a Fire Department or Training Academy or School or Fire Chief are found to be "sponsoring" non-employed individuals for certification, the following consequences may be administered:

- The individual's certification will be revoked
- The Fire Department/Training Academy/School's course approval will be revoked
- The Fire Chief's signature will no longer be valid on the required forms for testing and certification

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Division of Personnel Standards and Education at 217-782-4542.