



**State Education and Training
Annual Report
July 2017**

The Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Subcommittee has been working hard over the past year to make positive changes within the fire service as it relates to training and education. As of July 2017, the items listed below have had considerable effort put into them in regard to the rules surrounding them. Be advised, however, that these rules are still working *proposals*, and are *not in final rule* (with the exception of the last item regarding extensions) as of the writing of this report.

- Reduction in the number of hours for certified fire safety inspector continuing education to 24 hours per renewal cycle.
- Limitation on the number of online training hours that may be completed in one 24-hour period.
- Limitation on the types of hours that chiefs may approve for firefighter continuing education. The general thought process is that items that are “normal business” (e.g. business meetings), special events (e.g. parades, festivals), or daily duties (e.g. apparatus checks, fire safety inspections) do not meet the definition of training/education and will not be approvable hours.
- The 36-hour volunteer firefighter course is being redeveloped to focus on firefighter safety and mission critical job performance requirements (JPRs) prioritized to fit within the 36 hours maximum required by law.
- The proposed Hazard Recognition Officer (HRO) certification, which was also previously referred to as the “Company Inspector”, has successfully completed the rules hearing process and is moving closer to adoption. The HRO will be a forty-hour course, and those becoming certified will have the ability to document violations but not issue citations.
- The proposed Live Fire Instructor (LFI) certification has successfully completed the rules hearing process and is moving closer to adoption. The LFI certification will require the completion of the twenty-four-hour course and completion of four JPRs (Instructor, Ignition Officer, Safety Officer, and Incident Commander/Lead Instructor) within twelve months after completion of the course. Fire Instructors who were certified prior to April 7, 2014 may be grandfathered, Fire Instructors certified between April 7, 2014 – December 31, 2017 must complete the LFI course, Fire Instructors certified after January 1, 2018 must complete the LFI course and the four JPRs.
- One item that has been adopted and will affect the fire service is the matter of extensions. Currently only EMS providers can apply for extensions, but *effective January 1, 2018*,

firefighters will be able to apply for extensions. The final details will be available on the ODEMS website (www.ohio.ems.gov) closer to the effective date.

Special thanks to the Firefighter and Fire Training Subcommittee Representative Chief Timothy Thomas of the Fairfield Township Fire Department, Ohio Division of EMS Fire Education Coordinator Jack Smith, and Ohio Division of EMS Executive Director Melvin House for their assistance in preparing this report. Should there be any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Professionally,



Chief George B. Snyder, BCJ, OFC, NRP
Burghill Vernon Fire Department
OFCA EMS Committee Chair
OFCA (Volunteer Fire Service) EMFTS Board Representative