



The Ohio Fire Officer Credentialing Program

Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association



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Ohio Fire Officer Credentialing Program

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association (OFCA) and the Ohio Fire & Emergency Services Foundation (OF&ESF) have identified the need to further enhance the professionalism of chief fire officers throughout the State of Ohio by the establishment of a uniform Fire Officer credentialing program. The goal of the program is to ensure a strong degree of accountability. The Credentialing Program sets forth the goals needed for fire officers to establish a higher degree of professionalism so that fire officers may be better prepared to serve their department, their community, and other organizations. The goal is to promote the professional development of the fire officer in Ohio and to assist these officers in their daily operations, management, and leadership.

Credentialed participants will be required to renew their credentials every three years.

The OFCA, through this program, has attempted to establish occupational education, fire service related training, and experience criteria relevant to the position of fire officer. This process provides an equal opportunity for the volunteer, paid-on-call, or full-time applicant to meet the minimum criteria for achieving the Ohio Fire Officer credential. An individual seeking OFO credentialing must be an active member of a Fire and/or EMS organization and member of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association at the time of application.

By participation in this program, an applicant agrees to abide by a Mission Statement and Code of Professional Conduct. The Credentialing Review Committee will review all applications and make a recommendation to the OFCA Board of Directors. The OFCA Board of Directors will retain the final approval of all credentialing applications.

What is required for credentialing?

(See score sheet on page 11)

1. Candidate's Letter of Introduction
2. Organizational Position Chart
3. Candidate's Credentialing Application Package (Items must be in order with appropriate documentation)
 - a. Work History / Experience
 - b. Fire Officer Experience
 - c. Formal Education
 - d. Fire Officer Certifications
 - e. Other Certifications
 - f. Professional Development
 - g. Active Association Memberships
4. Professional References with Letters, minimum of (2) required (to be included with submission of application package)
5. Candidate's Signed Statement of Application
6. Score Sheet

Mission Statement of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association represents, educates and supports the leadership of Ohio's fire and emergency services.

Fire Officer Code of Professional Conduct

SECTION 1

We shall be dedicated to the concepts of effective fire protection by being responsible chief fire officers and we believe that professional leadership is essential to the achievement of this objective. We pledge ourselves to advance the science of fire service through training courses and other methods to meet the proper requirements of our profession.

SECTION 2

We recognize that the most important function of local fire departments is to serve the best interests of the community.

SECTION 3

We shall be dedicated to the highest ideals of personal character, honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships in order that fire officers may merit the respect and confidence of the community.

SECTION 4

We shall refrain from participating in political activities which may impair our performance as professional administrators.

SECTION 5

We shall handle all matters in our best judgment so that fairness and impartiality govern our decisions.

SECTION 6

We shall observe all of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, the laws of the State of Ohio and all applicable local laws.

SECTION 7

We shall make known the risks to be anticipated, should the fire officers' professional recommendations be disregarded by others.

SECTION 8

We shall recognize the professional competence and the mutual dependence of all Ohio fire officers and we pledge cooperation to those professionals and agencies concerned with the improvement of fire protection.

Guidance for completion of credentialing application

WORK HISTORY/EXPERIENCE

Experience: 1 point for each year served– Maximum of 20 points. The candidate must be a member in good standing of a Fire Department, Division, or District. Time served on fire departments other than Ohio municipal departments will be counted. You must provide the Association with proof that you are a member in good standing. A letter from the appointing authority including but not limited to the Township, Fire District, City Manager, Town Administrator, Mayor, Fire Chief, EMS Chief, or Assistant Chief showing the dates served.

FIRE OFFICER EXPERIENCE (Required)

Experience: 2 points per year, Maximum of 10 points. You must provide dated letter indicating your promotion from the appointing authority including but not limited to the City Manager, Town Administrator, Mayor, Fire Chief, EMS Chief or Assistant Chief showing the dates served as an officer. A resume of your fire service is also required. It should show appointment dates, departments served and ranks attained.

FORMAL EDUCATION

Minimum of a High School Diploma or GED required. A copy of the Diploma/certificate, or official transcript is required (please complete the information on page 15 if you are not able to obtain a copy of your diploma).

College degrees can be in any subject for credit. A copy of the degree, certificate, or official transcript is required. There is no need to submit the High School documents if you completed an advanced degree. No credit for partial completion of degree requirements will be awarded in this section. All degrees or course work must be from an accredited college or university.

Formal Education: – Max. Points 25

1. College certificate = 3 pts.
2. Associate Degree = 5 pts.

3. Bachelor's Degree = 10 pts. 7
4. Master's Degree = 15 pts.
5. Doctorate PhD = 25 pts. (Note: Only 1 point value may be selected).

FIRE CERTIFICATIONS

Applicants must provide proof of certification for recognized fire related fields.

Certifications can be issued by Federal, State, NFPA, or other entity recognized by the OFCA. A combination of fire officer level classes may be considered for Fire Officer I and/or II.

Fire Certifications/ (highest level attained) Max. Points 20

1. Fire Officer I = 5 pts.
2. Fire Officer II = 10 pts.
3. Fire Officer III = 15 pts.
4. Fire Officer IV = 20 pts. **(Select only one level)**

OTHER CERTIFICATIONS

Highest level attained Max. Points 15

1. Hazardous Materials – Operational = 5 pts.
2. Hazardous Material – Technician = 10 pts.
3. EMT-Basic = 5 pts.
4. EMT-Intermediate = 10 pts.
5. EMT-Paramedic = 15 pts.
6. Fire Inspector I = 5 pts.
7. Fire Inspector II = 10 pts.
8. Fire or EMS Instructor I = 5 pts.
9. Fire or EMS Instructor II = 10 pts.
10. Any level technical rescue certification = 5 pts.
11. Other

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certificates of attendance or completion for all courses to be credited must be provided for examination. A transcript, syllabus or course outline should also be included and in the case where no certificates are given, these items alone will also be considered as the necessary documentation for credit when distributed by the course provider or instructor. **All attended courses or seminars must be associated with leadership focused information designed specifically for fire officers.** These certificates may come from many places that provide professional development for the fire service and emergency medical services but must be earned within the **past five years**. They may come from accredited colleges or universities (if not counted in a degree for which you have previously received points), fire schools, weekend seminars or workshops, OFCA & OF&ESF sponsored courses, Ohio Fire Academy courses, National Fire Academy courses, or weekends, chiefs' conferences, vendor courses and other learning institutions.

Certificate or other proof (outline/summary)-**Maximum of 25 points**

Completed Executive Fire Officer = 10 pts.

or Ohio Fire Executive Officer Program = 10 pts.

National Fire Academy, Ohio Fire Academy, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Sponsored Courses, or In-house training = 1 pt. for each 2 hrs.

(In house training requires a list of courses signed off by the Chief, Assistant Chief or Training Officer of the department for approval). **The above list is only an example of classes/trainings that might be considered for points.**

ACTIVE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

1 point per Association – Maximum of 5 points

Only active membership in fire, rescue, or emergency management organizations will be accepted. Local, county, state, regional, and international organizations are accepted. Examples are OFCA, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Firefighters, International Association of Arson Investigators, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and District Organizations.

The applicant must provide copies of membership cards, letters acknowledging acceptance of membership, or other proof. **The applicant must be a member for at least one year prior to the date of application to claim point(s) for membership.**

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Applicants must demonstrate training, education, or experience in the following NFPA 1021 categories:

Human Resources 4.2.2; 4.2.6; 5.4.6

Department Administration 4.4.1; 5.4.1

Reporting 4.4.2; 4.4.5

Public Education 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.3.1

Health and Safety 4.7.1; 4.7.2; 4.7.3; 5.7.1

Codes, Inspections and Pre-Plans 4.5.1; 4.5.2

Training and Development 4.1; 4.2.3

Company Operations 4.2.1; 4.6.1; 4.6.2; 4.6.3; 5.6.2

EMS 4.2.1; 4.6.1; 4.6.210

TOTAL POINTS

65 Points are needed to become credentialed.

CREDENTIALING CRITERIA

Experience: Years of Service in Fire Service – 1 point per year – **Max. Points 20**

Fire Officer Experience: Years as Fire Officer – 2 points per year – **Max. Points 10**

Formal Education: Post High School Education. – **Max. Points 25**

1. College certificate = 3 pts.
2. Associate Degree = 5 pts.
3. Bachelor's Degree = 10 pts.
4. Master's Degree = 15 pts.
5. Doctorate PhD = 25 pts.

Fire Certifications: Max. Points 20

1. Fire Officer I = 5 pts.
2. Fire Officer II = 10 pts.
3. Fire Officer III = 15 pts.
4. Fire Officer IV = 20 pts.

Other Certifications: Max. Points 15

1. Hazardous Materials – Operational = 5 pts.
2. Hazardous Materials – Technician = 10 pts.
3. EMT-Basic = 5 pts.
4. EMT-Intermediate = 10 pts.
5. EMT-Paramedic = 15 pts.
6. Fire Inspector I = 5 pts.
7. Fire Inspector II = 10 pts.
8. Fire or EMS Instructor I = 5 pts.
9. Fire or EMS Instructor II = 10 pts.

10. Any level technical rescue certification = 5 pts.

11. Other

Professional Development: Certificate or other proof -**Max. Points 25**

Completed Executive Fire Officer = 10 pts.

Ohio Fire Executive Officer Program = 10 pts.

National Fire Academy, Ohio Fire Academy, OFCA or OF&ESF sponsored Courses, In-house training = 1 pt. for each 2 hrs.

Active Fire Association Membership: 1 point per Association – **Max. Points 5**

Examples but not limited to: *Assoc. Memberships and/or having served as officers, boards, other committees (OFCA, OF&ESF, IAFF, IAFC, Task forces) etc.*

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

On a separate sheet demonstrate your training, education, and experience in the following categories. Use the NFPA 1021 references as a guideline:

Human Resources 4.2.2; 4.2.6; 5.4.6

Department Administration 4.4.1; 5.4.1

Reporting 4.4.2; 4.4.5

Public Education 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.3.1

Health and Safety 4.7.1; 4.7.2; 4.7.3; 5.7.1

Codes, Inspections and Pre-Plans 4.5.1; 4.5.2

Training and Development 4.1; 4.2.3

Company Operations 4.2.1; 4.6.1; 4.6.2; 4.6.3; 5.6.2

EMS 4.2.1; 4.6.1; 4.6.2.12

SCORE SHEET

Candidate: _____ (Print your full name)

65 POINTS REQUIRED FOR CREDENTIALING

- _____ Letter of Introduction
- _____ Organizational Position Chart
- _____ Work History/Experience (Max. 20 pts.)
- _____ Fire Officer Experience (Max. 10 pts.)
- _____ Formal Education (Max. 25 pts.)
- _____ Fire Officer Certifications (Max. 20 pts.)
- _____ Other Certifications (Max. 15 pts.)
- _____ Professional Development (Max. 25 pts)
- _____ Active Association Memberships (Max. 5 pts.)
- _____ Letters of Reference
- _____ Completed Worksheets
- _____ Signed Statement of Application

- _____ **TOTAL POINTS (must total 65 pts.)**

Reviewer Initials: _____ **Date:** _____

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE SHEET

Candidates must submit the names of two references and information on these references.

Examples of both qualifying and non-qualifying references:

- **Qualifying References**

- A past supervisor (within 5 years)
- Local, state, or federal officials or department heads
- Emergency services organization officials (public, private, military, etc.)

- References that **DO NOT** qualify

- A subordinate
- A former student
- Friends, neighbors or relatives

Letters from references are required and must be signed by the person and attached to the application.

Reference #1

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Type of Association: _____

Years of association: _____

_____ Letter of reference received

Reference #2

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Type of Association: _____

Years of association: _____

_____ Letter of reference received

REQUIREMENT CHECK OFF LIST

- Letter of Introduction
- Organizational Position Chart
- Credentialing Application Packet (Certificates and Documentation attached)
- Professional references with letters, minimum of 2 required and to be included in application package
- Completed Worksheets
- Signed Statement of Application
- Completed score sheet 16

APPLICATION FOR CREDENTIALING

Name: _____

Department: _____ City/Town: _____

Email Address: _____

Current Position: _____ Years in Current Position: _____

Work Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

If you were not able to obtain and include a copy of your high school diploma, please complete the following:

Name/Address of High School graduated from: _____

Year of Graduation: _____

I understand that credentialing is subject to the approval of the OFCA. I will execute the necessary documents and supply further information as determined by the committee. I understand that any false statements or misrepresentation submitted in the course of these proceedings may result in the revocation of any credentialing. I give permission for verification of any information provided in this application package.

Candidate's signature: _____ Date: _____

If you have questions, contact the OFCA administrative staff at 614.410.6322 or 1.800.347.3704

Fees: \$125.00 for initial application (three year cycle). Check should be made payable to: Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

Mail fees and completed application package to:

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

Attn: Credentialing Committee

450 West Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 150

Worthington, OH 43085

Credentialing application fee is non-refundable.

WORKSHEETS

Ohio Fire Officer Credentialing

Fire Certifications

(List all the certification levels submitting for review along with proper documentation)

Fire Certification Level	Issuing Organization	Year	Reviewer Only – Pts.

Candidate (Print Your Name): _____

Ohio Fire Officer Credentialing

Active Association Membership

(List all associations submitting for review along with proper documentation)

Organization	Year(s)	Reviewer Only – Pts.

Candidate (Print Your Name): _____

**Ohio Fire Officer Credentialing
Other Certifications**

(List all other certifications submitting for review along with proper documentation)

Certification Level	Training Organization	Dates	Reviewer Only – Pts.

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Please define training, education, or experience in the following NFPA 1021 categories:

Human Resources 4.2.2; 4.2.6; 5.4.6

- Training

- Education

- Experience

Department Administration 4.4.1; 5.4.1

- Training

- Education

- Experience

Reporting 4.4.2; 4.4.5

- Training

- Education

- Experience

Public Education 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.3.1

- Training

- Education

- Experience

Health and Safety 4.7.1; 4.7.2; 4.7.3; 5.7.1

- Training

- Education

- Experience²⁵

Codes, Inspections and Pre-Plans 4.5.1; 4.5.2

- Training

- Education

- Experience

Training and Development 4.1; 4.2.3

- Training

- Education

- Experience

Company Operations 4.2.1; 4.6.1; 4.6.2; 4.6.3; 5.6.2

- Training

- Education

- Experience

EMS 4.2.1; 4.6.1; 4.6.2

- Training

- Education

- Experience
