

New Policy Applies to Volunteer FF Certification

A new policy on volunteer fire fighter re-certification initiated last year by the Personnel Standards Commission becomes effective this week. The new policy changes the responsibility for keeping training records for certified Volunteer Fire Fighter and eliminates the re-certification requirement.

Changes were made to 360-X-1-.01, *General Regulations and Administrative Procedures*, of the *Rules of the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission*. Specifically at Paragraph 5 (Certification Expiration of Volunteer Fire Fighter) and Paragraph 6 (Re-certification Requirements of Volunteer Fire Fighter) the old rules stated that volunteer fire fighter certification expires every three years and described the procedures for re-certification.

The new rules in effect as of January 5, 2007 drop the requirement for re-certification every three years. As a result of the elimination of the re-certification requirement for certified Volunteer Fire Fighter, all previously expired Volunteer Fire Fighter certifications will be immediately and automatically reinstated. No action is required of any volunteer fire fighter.

However, a certified Volunteer Fire Fighter must still maintain 30 hours of training annually, but the new rules transfer responsibility for keeping accurate records of the annual training internally to the fire chief or training officer of the fire department for which the individual is a member.

A Volunteer Fire Fighter certification will still expire one year from the date a volunteer leaves the fire service career or ceases to be a member of a volunteer fire department.