

The Path to Certifications for Fire Support Person and Volunteer Fire Fighter

The journey to achieving certification as a Fire Support Person (FSP) and Volunteer Fire Fighter (VFF) unfolds through a structured series of three interconnected courses. Each course builds on the previous one, integrating academic coursework, online training, and practical skills development.

Course I (Fire Support Person)

The path begins with Fire Support Person, open to individuals who are at least 18 years old and able to read and write in English. The required textbook will be IFSTA's *Essentials of Fire Fighting*, 8th Ed. Coursework covers Chapters 16 and 1-15, with a required minimum score of 70% on the End of Subject (EOS) assessments. In addition to the academic materials, participants must successfully complete a Fire Support Person Task Book. This course spans 70 hours and should be completed within 90 days.

To achieve certification as a Fire Support Person, additional online requirements include:

- NIMS 100, 200, 700, 800 *
- Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS) courses *
- Peer Support *
- Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (HM/WMD) Awareness training *

**This online training can be conducted prior to entering Fire Support Person.*

Testing covers both cognitive and skills components. Once successfully completed, individuals earn the Fire Support Person Certification and HM/WMD Awareness Certification.

Course II (Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations)

The next course is HM/WMD Operations, which delves deeper into hazardous materials response. This course requires participants to be at least 18 years old and certified to the HM/WMD Awareness level. Participants will complete 40 hours of training within 45 days. Testing covers both cognitive and skills components. Once successfully completed, individuals earn the HM/WMD Operations Certification.

Course III (Certified Volunteer Firefighter)

To achieve the Certified Volunteer Firefighter certification, candidates must complete the third course, which is skills-based and outlined in the CVFF/FFI Task Book. Prior to beginning this course candidates must have completed certifications in Fire Support Person, HM/WMD Awareness and HM/WMD Operations, and produce a valid Physical Statement (AFC&PSEC FORM-05). This intensive course demands 50 hours of preparation and assessment over a 90-day period. Participants undergo Live Fire Skills Testing and CVFF/FFI Skills Testing, overseen by designated test teams. Upon successful demonstration of required competencies, the candidate earns the Certified Volunteer Fire Fighter Certification- the culmination of all prior learning and performance-based evaluations.

Conclusion

This training is structured as a progressive program of instruction leading to Certified Volunteer Fire Fighter certification, beginning with entry-level coursework and advancing through required operational and advanced certifications. The program emphasizes standardized training, skill progression, and demonstrated competency in support of public safety and community service.

FIRE SUPPORT PERSON

- **Prerequisites:**
 - 18 years of age
 - read & write the English language
- **Coursework:**
 - Chapter 16
 - Chapters 1-15
 - Minimum 70% correct on EOS assessment
- **Courses required in addition to the Fire Support Person Taskbook:**
 - NIMS 100, 200, 700, & 800
 - Peer Support Awareness
 - TIMS
 - HM/WMD Awareness
- **Course Hours:** 70 hours / 90 days

CERTIFICATION TESTING:

- HM/WMD Awareness (skills & cognitive)
- Fire Support Person (skills & cognitive) (submission of Task Book is required)
- CVFF/FFI (cognitive)

Upon successful completion of CVFF/FFI cognitive testing, the student can continue on to the skills portion of the Volunteer Fire Fighter course.

HAZMAT/WMD OPERATIONS

- **Prerequisites:**
 - 18 years of age
 - NIMS 100, 200, 700, & 800
 - HM/WMD Awareness
- **Course Hours:** 40 hours / 45 days

CERTIFICATION TESTING:

- HM/WMD Operations (skills & cognitive)

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER

- **Prerequisites:**
 - Fire Support Person
 - Physical Statement
- Completion of **CVFF/FFI Taskbook**
- **Course Hours:** 50 hours/90 days

CERTIFICATION TESTING:

- Live Fire Skills Testing
- CVFF/FFI Skills Testing (submission of the CVFF/FFI Taskbook is required)

Skills Testing teams are currently in development.