

## Testing Outside of Progressional Sequence

A Certification Technical Advisory Group was established in September of 2009. This group considered the issue of fire service personnel who had tested out of sequence with the NFPA ladder of progression. These individuals had been informed that their testing was invalid due to a failure to meet the pre-requisites.

After consideration of all issues, it was recommended by this committee to allow a one year time frame for fire service personnel to test on their lower levels of certification in the proper sequence. During this one year window all candidates who tested out of progression will be allowed to complete their respective lower level certifications. Candidates who are successful on the lower level certifications will then have the certification tested out of progression honored by the state certification unit.

**As of January 1, 2010 all candidates are required to test in progression per the NFPA standards.** Candidates who tested out of sequence prior to January 1, 2010 and wish their prior testing to be validated must begin the testing on the prerequisite levels between January 1, 2010 and December 31st, 2010. Candidates must complete their testing on all lower levels of required certifications within twelve (12) months of their start date.

In order for a candidate to be eligible for this consideration the following must be furnished to the FPB Accreditation and Certification Unit by December 31, 2010:

- Fire Chiefs or their Training Officer must request in writing that the candidate be allowed to test on the lower levels
- Fire Chiefs or their Training Officer must identify in writing all candidates requesting consideration for testing under this policy
- Fire Chief or their Training Officer must verify thru signature that the candidate has met the pre-requisite training for the level of certification testing desired
- Fire Chiefs or their Training Officer must furnish a copy of the original score notification sent out by the Office of the State Fire Marshal or be able to furnish specific information regarding the date, location and certification level tested out of sequence

- Fire Chiefs or their Training Officer must furnish a test opportunity for the candidate(s) or candidate(s) must have TCO approval for testing in an open exam

Certifications that were tested out of progression will be issued when all requirements are verified as successfully completed and all documentation is furnished.

Eligible candidates who have not applied for this one-time exemption prior to the cut-off date of December 31, 2010 will have exam results (tests taken out of progression) voided.

Due to the additional verification process needed for this consideration it may take the Office of the State Fire Marshal additional time to issue certifications.