

**RULES
OF
THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON FIRE FIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0360-04-01
EXAMINATIONS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

0360-04-01-.01	General	0360-04-01-.06	Examination Form
0360-04-01-.02	Applications	0360-04-01-.07	Reserved
0360-04-01-.03	Character of Examinations	0360-04-01-.08	Written Examinations
0360-04-01-.04	Grading	0360-04-01-.09	Practical Examinations
0360-04-01-.05	Retesting		

0360-04-01-.01 GENERAL.

- (1) All training, practicals, and examinations shall be based on the performance standards for the appropriate progression level as set forth in these rules and regulations and meet or exceed all applicable NFPA standards, including NFPA 1500. All practicals and written examinations will be given at a location reasonably proximate to local departments to make it as convenient as possible for applicants.
- (2) Generally, Commission representatives are prohibited from testing personnel from their affiliated department. However, Commission representatives may test personnel from their affiliated department only in a regional test setting and if a majority of the applicants are from other departments.
- (3) An applicant shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age in order to take a certification examination and shall have completed the prerequisite training course at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy (TFACA), or be connected to a fire department in Tennessee, or be a resident of Tennessee.
- (4) Applicants shall present a valid government-issued photo identification card prior to being admitted to any examination.
- (5) Commission members and Commission representatives who wish to sit for a Commission-administered practical or written examination shall meet all requirements in order to register for the certification exam they wish to take. Members and representatives must notify the Director prior to testing for the certification exam. The exam shall be scheduled at any location other than the department in which they serve unless another Commissioner or Director remains present during the test event.
- (6) Any individual found cheating on a Commission examination or found to have submitted falsified documentation to register for a Commission examination after a hearing pursuant to the UAPA, Consent Order, or Agreed Order shall be prohibited from participating in any Commission program for a period of time as determined by the Commission. Additionally, the individual shall be required to restart the certification level deemed appropriate by the Commission, considering the individual's experience and the circumstances surrounding the incident. An individual found cheating a second time shall be barred from participating in any Commission program or in any certification.
- (7) Applicants shall have twelve (12) months from the initial test date to complete both the practical and written examinations.

(Rule 0360-04-01-.01, continued)

- (8) Individuals called to active military duty shall have their deadlines to complete the practical examinations extended for the same period of time the applicant was on active military duty. Furthermore, if the applicant is on active military duty for a period greater than six (6) months, the clock will restart on the time allowed for the practical examinations to be valid, and the applicant will have one (1) year to complete that level of certification. A letter from the Fire Chief or Training Officer certifying this leave shall accompany the application for written examination.
- (9) An applicant may request accommodation for a disability in taking a written examination offered by the Commission. The request for accommodation shall be made on the form provided by the Commission and submitted to the Director along with the application. Any documentation regarding an applicant's disability and the need for accommodation in testing shall be considered confidential.
- (10) The specific editions of the professional standards referred to throughout this chapter are those adopted in Chapter 0360-06-01.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-24-101, 4-24-106, and 4-24-107. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 27, 1979; effective October 10, 1979. Amendment filed November 8, 1990; effective December 23, 1990. Amendment filed December 14, 2009; effective March 14, 2010. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015. Amendments filed July 27, 2018; effective October 25, 2018. Amendments filed April 2, 2025; effective July 1, 2025.

0360-04-01-.02 APPLICATIONS.

- (1) Any department electing to host an examination shall contact the Commission office or its representative to schedule an examination date. At the time of the examination, each individual applicant shall have a completed application submitted with appropriate documentation of necessary prerequisites.
 - (a) Applications for off-campus certification courses must be received by the Commission a minimum of two (2) weeks before any anticipated examination date.
 - (b) The Commission office shall schedule the examination date based upon requested examinations and availability of proctors.
 - (c) This examination date shall be open to other applicants unless prior approval of the Director for a closed examination has been obtained.
 - (d) The Commission representative shall administer the examination on the examination date. At the end of the examination, the Commission representative shall collect all examination materials and answer sheets and send them to the Commission for grading.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-24-101, 4-24-106, and 4-24-107. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 27, 1979; effective October 10, 1979. Amendment filed November 8, 1990; effective December 23, 1990. Amendment filed December 14, 2009; effective March 14, 2010. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015. Amendments filed July 27, 2018; effective October 25, 2018. Amendments filed April 2, 2025; effective July 1, 2025.

0360-04-01-.03 CHARACTER OF EXAMINATIONS.

- (1) Commission testing, both written and practical, shall be in accordance with the appropriate adopted NFPA standards referenced in 0360-06-01 and in accordance with the rules of the

(Rule 0360-04-01-.03, continued)

accrediting body/bodies. A Commission representative or designee shall chair a committee of fire service personnel who are certified at or above the level of certification being validated.

- (2) Practical examinations shall meet the job performance requirements for the tested standard and shall be used to determine the ability, manual skills, and leadership of the applicant to perform the work at a particular progression level.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-24-101, 4-24-106, and 4-24-107. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 27, 1979; effective October 10, 1979. Amendment filed November 8, 1990; effective December 23, 1990. Amendment filed December 14, 2009; effective March 14, 2010. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015. Amendments filed July 27, 2018; effective October 25, 2018. Amendments filed April 2, 2025; effective July 1, 2025.

0360-04-01-.04 GRADING.

- (1) Written - The Commission shall prepare exams with the identified correct answer to each question. Commission office personnel will be responsible for the grading of each examination. A passing grade shall be seventy percent (70%) on the examination.
 - (a) Disputes over the validity of any question(s), but no more than five (5), on the Commission's examinations shall be submitted to the Commission, in writing, on the back of the answer sheet or on a blank sheet of paper used during the examination. The disputed questions shall be submitted by the student prior to leaving the test event. The student must clearly state the nature of the dispute for each question.
 - (b) The Commission's Executive Director and Accreditation Manager shall review the disputed question(s) and render a final decision on the disputed questions.
 - (c) Scores shall not be released over the telephone.
- (2) Practical - The Commission shall designate a qualified individual to conduct the practical examinations. The Commission shall require that each examinee perform these activities and grade that performance on a pass or fail basis.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-24-101, 4-24-106, and 4-24-107. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 27, 1979; effective October 10, 1979. Amendment filed November 8, 1990; effective December 23, 1990. Amendment filed December 14, 2009; effective March 14, 2010. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015. Amendments filed July 27, 2018; effective October 25, 2018. Amendments filed April 2, 2025; effective July 1, 2025.

0360-04-01-.05 RETESTING.

An applicant may not retake the examination until at least fifteen (15) days after the initial examination.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-24-106 and 4-24-107. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 27, 1979; effective October 10, 1990. Amendment filed November 8, 1990; effective December 23, 1990. Repeal and new rule filed April 25, 2005; effective July 9, 2005. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015. Amendments filed July 27, 2018; effective October 25, 2018. Amendments filed April 2, 2025; effective July 1, 2025.

0360-04-01-.06 EXAMINATION FORM.

- (1) Examinations shall consist of a practical and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards.

(Rule 0360-04-01-.06, continued)

- (a) The practical examination requirements for Fire Fighter I shall consist of all of the following:
 - 1. A practical examination administered on a regional basis. This practical examination shall be developed by the Commission based on and meeting the standards in NFPA 1001.
 - 2. A live burn practical examination shall be completed from one (1) of the following options:
 - (i) Successful completion of the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy's Fire Fighter I Live Burn course or Fire Fighter I and II Live Burn course. A Live Burn Suppression Verification Form shall be completed and attached/uploaded to the "Application for Written Examination"; or
 - (ii) Successful completion of the live burn objectives in NFPA 1001 for Fire Fighter I during a live burn training. All of the exercises listed on the Live Burn Suppression Verification Sheet for the appropriate level shall be completed through the local department's training program. A Live Burn Suppression Verification Form shall be completed and attached to the "Application for Written Examination." The department shall provide the Commission with a minimum of fourteen (14) working days' notice by submitting an Application for Live Burn Training. A Commission or staff member may witness any live burn exercises conducted by a department. This option shall be completed during a training exercise; no working fires shall be utilized for this option.
 - (b) An applicant shall obtain a Fire Fighter I certification within one hundred twenty (120) months of completing a live burn practical examination. After one hundred twenty (120) months, successful completion of an additional live burn practical examination shall be required in order to obtain a Fire Fighter I certification.
- (2) The examination for Fire Fighter II shall consist of a practical and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the relevant certification as the adopted in NFPA standards.
 - (a) The practical examination requirements for Fire Fighter II shall consist of all the following:
 - 1. A practical examination administered on a regional basis. This practical examination shall be developed by the Commission based on and meeting the standards in NFPA 1001.
 - 2. A live burn practical examination shall be completed from one (1) of the following options:
 - (i) Successful completion of the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy's Fire Fighter II Live Burn course or Fire Fighter I and II Live Burn course. A Live Burn Suppression Verification Form shall be completed and attached/uploaded to the "Application for Written Examination"; or
 - (ii) Successful completion of the live burn objectives in NFPA 1001 for Fire Fighter II during a live burn training. All of the exercises listed on the Live Burn Suppression Verification Sheet for the appropriate level shall be

(Rule 0360-04-01-.06, continued)

completed through the local department's training program. A Live Burn Suppression Verification Form shall be completed and attached to the "Application for Written Examination." The department shall provide the Commission with a minimum of fourteen (14) working days' notice by submitting an Application for Live Burn Training. A Commission or staff member may witness any live burn exercises conducted by a department. This option shall be completed during a training exercise; no working fires shall be utilized for this option.

- (b) After June 30, 2016, a live burn practical examination, as part of the Fire Fighter II performance examination requirements, shall be based upon the current standard as adopted by reference in Chapter 0360-06-01-.01.
 - (c) An applicant shall obtain a Fire Fighter II certification within one hundred twenty (120) months of successfully completing a live burn practical examination. After one hundred twenty (120) months, successful completion of an additional live burn practical examination shall be required in order to obtain a Fire Fighter II certification.
- (3) Every Commission certification recipient shall have completed a Commission approved course that shall consist of a practical examination and written examination substantially derived from the performance standards of that certification as referenced in Chapter 0360-06-01.
 - (4) The examination for Fire Department Instructor I shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Department Instructor I as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. Any applicant challenging the Fire Department Instructor I written examination shall complete the Fire Department Instructor I Practical Skills Checklist provided by the Commission. This practical is to be graded by an individual certified by the Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting as either a Fire Department Instructor I or a Vocational and Higher Education Instructor. A completed copy of the checklist shall be attached to the "Application for Written Examination."
 - (5) The examination for Fire Department Instructor II shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Department Instructor II as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for the Fire Department Instructor II shall consist of completing a prescribed Fire Department Instructor II workbook meeting the current standard.
 - (6) The examination for Fire Department Instructor III shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested will be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Department Instructor III as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01.
 - (7) The examination for Fire Officer I shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested will be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Officer I as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Fire Officer I shall consist of completing projects which shall be administered by the Commission in conjunction with written examinations. The practical requirement shall be completion of two (2) projects assigned to the applicant at random which are derived from NFPA 1021. These projects will be graded by designated Commission representatives.
 - (8) The examination for Fire Officer II shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested will be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Officer II as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Fire Officer II shall consist of completing a project based on NFPA 1021 for Fire Officer II.

(Rule 0360-04-01-.06, continued)

The project may be obtained from the Commission. This project will be graded by the Commission.

- (9) The examination for Fire Officer III shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested will be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Officer III as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Fire Officer III shall consist of completing a project based on NFPA 1021 for Fire Officer III. The project may be obtained from the Commission. This project will be graded by the Commission.
- (10) The examination for Fire Officer IV shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Officer IV as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. An applicant shall successfully complete the practical examination for Fire Officer IV as promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1021, Chapter 7.
- (11) The examination for Hazardous Materials Awareness shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Hazardous Materials Awareness as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01.
 - (a) The practical examination for Hazardous Materials Awareness may be part of the Fire Fighter I practical or administered separately and shall be based upon NFPA 472 or NFPA 1072 for the appropriate level.
 - (b) The written examination for Hazardous Materials Awareness may be administered in conjunction with the Hazardous Materials Operations Certification written examination or may be administered separately.
- (12) The examination for Hazardous Materials Operations shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Hazardous Materials Operations as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01.
 - (a) The practical examination for Hazardous Materials Operations may be part of the Fire Fighter I practical or administered separately and shall be based upon NFPA 472 or NFPA 1072 for the appropriate level.
 - (b) The written examination for Hazardous Materials Operations may be administered in conjunction with the Hazardous Materials Awareness Certification written examination or may be administered separately.
- (13) The examination for Airport Firefighter shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Airport Firefighter as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination requirements for Airport Firefighter shall consist of all the following:
 - (a) A practical examination administered on a regional basis. This practical examination shall be developed by the Commission based on the standards in NFPA 1003;
 - (b) A live burn practical examination shall be completed. One (1) of the following options shall be completed:
 - 1. Completion of a Federal Aviation Administration training course where, at minimum, all requirements of the Commission's Airport Live Burn Verification Sheet are accomplished; or

(Rule 0360-04-01-.06, continued)

2. All of the exercises listed on the Airport Live Burn Suppression Verification Sheet for the appropriate level shall be completed through the local airport fire department's training program. An Airport Live Burn Suppression Verification Form shall be completed and attached to the "Application for Written Examination". The department shall provide the Commission with a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior notification of live burn exercises. A Commission member or staff may witness any live burn exercises conducted by a department. This option shall be completed during a training exercise; no working fires may be utilized for this option.
- (14) The examination for Wildland Firefighter I shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Wildland Firefighter I as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Wildland Firefighter I shall consist of one (1) of the following:
 - (a) Completion of a practical examination based upon NFPA 1051 which has been submitted to the Commission for approval; or
 - (b) Completion of the "Task Book for the Position of Firefighter Type 2" offered by the Tennessee Division of Forestry.
 - (15) The examination for Wildland Firefighter II shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Wildland Firefighter II as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Wildland Firefighter II shall consist of one (1) of the following:
 - (a) Completion of a practical examination based upon NFPA 1051 which has been submitted to the Commission for approval; or
 - (b) Completion of the "Task Book for the Position of Advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss" offered by the Tennessee Division of Forestry.
 - (16) The examination for Fire and Life Educator I shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire and Life Safety Educator I as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Fire and Life Safety Educator I shall consist of completing a project based upon NFPA 1035 for the appropriate level and returning it to the Commission for grading. The project may be obtained from the Commission.
 - (17) The examination for Fire and Life Educator II shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire and Life Safety Educator II as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Fire and Life Safety Educator II shall consist of completing a project based upon NFPA 1035 for the appropriate level and returning it to the Commission for grading. The project may be obtained from the Commission.
 - (18) The examination for Fire Apparatus Operator shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Apparatus Operator as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1002, Chapters 4, 5, and 6. In order to sit for the test before completing the prerequisite courses for this level, the applicant shall perform the evolutions on both pumper and aerial apparatus equipment.

(Rule 0360-04-01-.06, continued)

- (19) The examination for Pumper Driver/Operator shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Pumper Driver/Operator as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1002, Chapters 4 and 5.
- (20) The examination for Aerial Apparatus Driver/Operator shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Aerial Apparatus Driver/Operator as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1002, Chapters 4 and 6.
- (21) The examination for Incident Safety Officer shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Incident Safety Officer as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Incident Safety Officer shall be the completion of a written project of the Incident Safety Officer's role, duties, and responsibilities in accordance with NFPA 1521, OSHA, and other standards given an incident scenario provided by the Commission. The applicant will be provided the incident scenario in a written examination setting. This project will be evaluated by a Committee of the Commission which will meet in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Commission meeting on an as-needed basis. Successful completion of this project shall qualify the applicant to take the written examination for Incident Safety Officer.
- (22) The examination for Health and Safety Officer shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Health and Safety Officer as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The practical examination for Health and Safety Officer shall be the completion of a written outline of the Health and Safety Officer's role, duties, and responsibilities in accordance with NFPA 1521, OSHA, and other standards given an incident scenario provided by the Commission. The applicant will be provided the incident scenario in a written examination setting. This outline will be evaluated by a Committee of the Commission. Successful completion of this outline shall qualify the applicant to take the written examination for Health and Safety Officer.
- (23) The examination for Rope Awareness shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Rope Awareness as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1006, Chapters 4 and 5.
- (24) The examination for Rope Operations shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Rope Operations as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1006, Chapters 5 and 6.
- (25) The examination for Rope Technician shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Rope Technician as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01.
- (26) The examination for Interior Structural Fire Brigade Member shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Interior Structural Fire Brigade Member as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1081, Chapters 4 and 7.

(Rule 0360-04-01-.06, continued)

- (27) The examination for Fire Inspector shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Inspector as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1031, Chapter 4.
- (28) The examination for Fire Investigator I shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Investigator I as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1033.
- (29) The examination for Hazardous Materials Technician shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Hazardous Materials Technician as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 472 or NFPA 1072.
- (30) The examination for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 472 or NFPA 1072.
- (31) The examination for Plans Reviewer shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Plans Reviewer as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1031.
- (32) The examination for Fire Marshal shall consist of a practical examination and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Fire Marshal as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1037.
- (33) The examination for Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Driver/Operator shall consist of a practical and a written examination. The subjects tested shall be substantially derived from the performance standards for Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Driver/Operator as set forth in Chapter 0360-06-01. The applicant shall complete a practical examination promulgated by the Commission utilizing the standards outlined in NFPA 1002, Chapters 4 and 9.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-24-101, 4-24-106, 4-24-107, and 4-24-110. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 27, 1979; effective October 10, 1979. Amendment filed November 8, 1990; effective December 23, 1990. Repeal and new rule filed October 14, 1994; effective February 28, 1995. Repeal and new rule filed April 25, 2005; effective July 9, 2005. Amendment filed December 14, 2009; effective March 14, 2010. Amendments filed October 5, 2010; effective March 31, 2011. Amendments filed August 2, 2011; effective January 29, 2012. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015. Amendments filed June 3, 2016; effective September 1, 2016. Amendments filed July 27, 2018; effective October 25, 2018. Amendments filed January 22, 2020; effective April 21, 2020. Amendments filed April 2, 2025; effective July 1, 2025.

0360-04-01-.07 RESERVED.

Authority: T.C.A. § 4-24-207. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 27, 1979; effective October 10, 1979. Repeal filed November 8, 1990; effective December 23, 1990. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015.

0360-04-01-.08 WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS.

- (1) Written examinations shall be scheduled and conducted by the Commission office or representative.
- (2) The Commission representative shall ensure that the site meets the requirements established in policy prior to the start of the written examination.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-24-101, 4-24-106, and 4-24-107. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 14, 2009; effective March 14, 2010. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015. Amendments filed July 27, 2018; effective October 25, 2018. Amendments filed April 2, 2025; effective July 1, 2025.

0360-04-01-.09 PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS.

- (1) One department may administer a practical examination to another participating department and/or may enroll students from another department in a course provided the following conditions are met:
 - (a) The administering department's practical examination has been approved by the Commission;
 - (b) Both departments have agreed to allow the applicant(s) to utilize the administering department's practical examination; and
 - (c) Proof of successful completion of the practical examination is sent to the applicant's department and placed on file.
- (2) The application for a practical examination shall be submitted by the department of which the applicant is a member and the examination results will be forwarded to that department.
- (3)
 - (a) For practical or live burn practical examinations, compliance with 29 CFR 1910.134, Respiratory Protection Standards, is required. An applicant is required to have been Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) fit tested within twelve (12) months of the examination and a SCBA Fit Testing Verification form is to be completed. Appropriate documentation shall include:
 1. The signature of the Fire Chief from the applicant's sponsoring department; and
 2. Documentation from an authorized fit-testing entity.
 - (b) No one shall be allowed to participate in the practical or live burn practical examination in which a SCBA is used unless the fit testing is documented.
 - (c) Applicants for Tennessee State Fire Commission Certification in Fire Fighter I or II practical examinations or live burn practical examinations, who have beards or facial hair in the area of the SCBA face piece seal (examples may include, but not be limited to: full-face beards, muttonchops, goatees, sideburns, mustaches, or even a few days growth of stubble) shall not be allowed to participate in the practical examination if the facial hair between the wearer's skin and the sealing surfaces of the face piece

(Rule 0360-04-01-.09, continued)

prevents a good seal with the respirator. A firefighter shall not enter an area in which it has been determined that respirator protection is necessary when conditions prevent a good seal of the respirator face piece to the face. This provision shall be enforced regardless of the live burn skills being tested at any site. No exceptions to this provision shall be granted. This provision is in conjunction with 29 CFR 1910.134 Respiratory Protection Standard.

- (d) Ordinary eyeglasses shall not be used with full face piece respirators. Eye glasses with temple bars or straps that pass between the sealing surface of a full face piece and the firefighter's face will prevent a good seal. Special spectacle kits may be ordered and mounted inside a full face piece respirator, but will not be provided.
- (4) (a) For Regional Practical Examinations, a department shall furnish a minimum of one (1) Evaluator for every two (2) applicants that the department submits for examination.
- (b) Evaluators shall be certified by the Commission at a minimum of Fire Fighter II level (Fire Fighter III for 1987 NFPA Standard or earlier) and are strongly encouraged to be certified at the Fire Department Instructor I level.
- (c) Evaluators are strongly encouraged to complete a Commission-approved examination before being allowed to serve as an Evaluator. The Evaluator training and examination may be available online over the Internet.
- (5) Regional Practical Examination Site Requirements. The department hosting a regional practical examination shall meet the following conditions:
 - (a) Have adequate space to conduct the practical examinations;
 - (b) Be able to provide all equipment required for the examination, excluding the equipment each applicant shall provide in accordance with Commission rules;
 - (c) Provide a member of the host department who has attended a regional practical examination before hosting one within the department;
 - (d) Provide a minimum of three (3) evaluators who are certified by the Commission at a minimum of Fire Fighter II level (Fire Fighter III for 1987 NFPA Standard or earlier), and preferably who are certified at the Fire Department Instructor I level;
 - (e) Attest that the site and equipment meet the requirements of the program and all applicable standards; and
 - (f) Provide practical examinations equipment for firefighters that has been inspected and meets all applicable NFPA safety standards.
- (6) All instructors, evaluators, and approved applicants who participate in a live burn practical shall meet the requirements of Chapter 4, Section 4.3, Student Prerequisites, of the latest adopted edition of NFPA 1403. Written documentation of completion of this training shall be kept on file by the department and shall be subject to audit by the Commission. All requirements listed in the Live Burn Training Requirements Book shall be completed.
- (7) Practical skill sheets shall be available to all applicants through the Commission website.
- (8) Practical examination sites shall have adequate space to safely hold the examination. The site shall have an isolated holding area for the applicants waiting to take the examination and a separate area for applicants who have completed the examination. The Commission

(Rule 0360-04-01-.09, continued)

representative shall ensure that the site meets these requirements prior to the start of the examination.

(9) Guidelines for Practical and Live Burn Practical Examinations

- (a) No fee shall be charged by the Commission for these examinations.
- (b) Practical regional examination sites will be established in each Commission representative's territory, on an as-needed basis, to meet the needs of the fire departments within their territories.
- (c) Live Burn Practical examination sites will be established by the Commission representatives in conjunction with a department's ability to host these types of practical examinations which shall be NFPA 1403 compliant.
- (d) Applicants may travel out of their region to take examinations at other sites.
- (e) The Commission representative shall conduct a training seminar for evaluators prior to each practical examination to ensure the evaluators understand examination procedures, grading procedures, performance criteria, and instructions on completing required paperwork. The Commission shall provide the Commission representative with documents to be utilized during this training. Any evaluator who fails to attend this training shall not be allowed to serve as an evaluator.
- (f) Applications to sit for the practical examination before completing the course prerequisites shall be submitted to the Commission a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the examination date. A minimum of ten (10) applicants shall be scheduled in order to conduct the practical examinations; a maximum of fifty (50) applicants may be tested per day.
- (g) An applicant who fails any evolution shall be notified immediately of the failure and will be allowed to leave the practical immediately.
- (h) Copies of the entire practical examination will be provided to all departments. A copy may also be requested by individuals from the Commission Office either by e-mail or mail.
- (i) Applicants who complete the examination shall remain at the host facility until the end of the day to assist in cleaning and restoring the host facility to original condition prior to receiving test results. Leaving early shall result in automatic failure unless the applicant is given permission to leave by the Commission representative.
- (j) Applicants who have completed their practical examination shall remain separate from those waiting to sit for the examination before completing course prerequisites.
- (k) Applicants waiting to sit for the practical examination before completing the course prerequisites shall be secluded from the actual practical examination. Under no circumstances shall an applicant waiting to sit for the practical examination before completing the prerequisite courses be allowed to see the practical examinations being administered or be in contact with any individual who has completed the practical examination.
- (l) The applicant or the applicant's sponsoring department shall provide at least one (1) SCBA and mask, and each applicant shall bring a mask which has been fit tested.

(Rule 0360-04-01-.09, continued)

- (m) The applicant or the applicant's sponsoring department shall inspect each applicant's equipment to ensure it meets current additions of applicable safety standards.
- (n) Each applicant shall bring his/her own personal protective equipment (e.g., helmet, turnout gear, gloves, and coat) including SCBA.
- (o) The host department shall provide the equipment to be used for testing (e.g., ladders, hose, etc.).
- (p) The applicant shall assume liability in case of injury. A statement to this effect is included on the application which shall be signed by the applicant.
- (q) The Commission will solicit individuals who are Fire Fighter II or Fire Instructor I certified or individuals deemed by the Commission to be subject matter experts in the area of firefighting and are interested in serving as evaluators. Individuals shall submit their names and qualifications. This list of names will be maintained by the Commission office which will rotate through the names for each examination. Individuals may add their names at any time.
- (r) An applicant shall perform the practical skills examinations as required for each class of certification. An applicant may not refuse to perform a practical skills examination even if the department does not have the equipment specified to perform that practical skill.
- (s) The Commission representative shall have the authority to adopt these guidelines to address specific life safety problems as they arise.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-24-101, 4-24-106, and 4-24-107. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 14, 2009; effective March 14, 2010. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 2014; effective January 25, 2015. Amendments filed July 27, 2018; effective October 25, 2018. Amendments filed January 22, 2020; effective April 21, 2020. Amendments filed April 2, 2025; effective July 1, 2025.