

TITLE 41: FIRE PROTECTION
CHAPTER I: OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
PART 141 POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR
FIRE PROTECTION PERSONNEL
SECTION 141.334 FIRE INVESTIGATOR

Section 141.334 Fire Investigator

Professional qualifications for Fire Investigator are identified in NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921. The Illinois program does not recognize Fire Investigator as a rank because it is not possible to insure that every rank used by local fire departments or allied field agencies to identify persons serving as Fire Investigators would be consistent throughout the State. A Fire Investigator is an individual, serving in an agency or a fire department, specifically responsible for the investigation of fire incidents. The term synonymous with Fire Investigator is Technical Specialist.

- a) Prerequisites
 - 1) Certification as a Firefighter II (see Section 141.300) or successful completion of the Bypass Examination (see Sections 141.220 and 141.240).
 - 2) Successful completion of the Fire Investigator course consisting of three Modules, or Modules I and II and the Arson Investigator course (see Section 141.336).
 - 3) Application for Certification/Validation- Attestation.
 - 4) Engagement in firefighting in an organized Illinois fire department as a fire protection person according to the Act, as attested to by the employing Fire Chief of the individual seeking certification.
- b) Reimbursement may be received for training costs for a Fire Investigator (see Subpart E).
- c) The instructor of a Fire Investigator course or an Arson Investigator course must meet the requirements of Section 141.115(c).
- d) Credit for equivalent courses may be available in accordance with Section 141.120.

- e) All fire service organizations and educational institutions desiring to offer programs and/or courses shall meet the requirements of Section 141.308(e).
- f) Re-certification requirements:
 - 1) Certifications expire four years after issuance date.
 - 2) Certification as a Fire Investigator.
 - 3) Completion of refresher training following the established course objectives identified in NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, totaling 100 points over a four-year period, attested to by the employing Fire Chief, based on the divisional point system. Point dissemination will be determined by the applicable ad hoc committee. Records of the training will be retained in the fire department records.
 - 4) Application for re-certification, signed by employing Fire Chief, verifying completion of training points.
 - 5) If certification is not renewed within 90 days after the expiration date, the individuals will be required to complete an approved Fire Investigator Course.

Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire/Arson Re-Certification Information Point System Criteria

The following criteria has been compiled as the PROPOSED re-certification requirements for Fire and/or Arson Investigators. The committee, composed of fire/arson investigators and other interested parties throughout the state, worked diligently to provide criteria which was not only meaningful but also attainable for the fire/arson investigators in the state. this proposal has not been submitted for acceptance to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and does not become effective until approval is received by that entity. The TARGET date for beginning these requirements is January 1, 2005, which means that submittal of certification points would not begin until 2009.

The following Training/Employment Criteria is allowed to accumulate points applicable to re-certification of Fire/Arson Investigators. A combination of the following two sections, adding up to 100 points per a four (4) year period will qualify an individual, who is certified through this office, to apply for re-certification at either of these levels.

The documentation of all points is to be retained in the individual's training records according to the Illinois Administrative Code, Section 140.12, d), 4). This documentation must be attested to by the employing Fire Chief. The form for maintaining the accumulated points is attached.

1) TRAINING: 1 point/hour for a minimum of 60 points/maximum of 90 points total over a 4 year re-certification period. Training programs may include training programs, seminars/conferences, college level courses, internet training, in-house training, and power point/video training conducted by a recognized agency or group and covering objectives based on the approved OSFM objectives. Training session would be awarded 1 point per hour of training. Instructors would be awarded 2 points per hour of training.

2) EXPERIENCE:

- A. 1 point per occasion for a maximum of 30 points total over a 4 year re-certification period for actual job related investigation. And/Or
- B. 5 points/8 hour Ride-along-Program participation with a certified investigator who has at least five (5) years experience as a certified investigator. And/Or
- C. 5 points/occasion for testimony. Testimony will include depositions, pre-trial hearings/preparations, and other court related testimony regarding point of origin or cause of fire or explosion. And/Or
- D. 5 points/year for a maximum of 20 points total per a re-certification period for direct supervision of two (2) or more fire/arson investigators. Or
- E. 2 points/years for a maximum of 8 points total per re-certification period for supervision of less than two (2) fire/arson investigators.
And/Or
- F. 1 point/hour for Fire Service Institute internship And/Or
- G. 1 point/hour for live fire hands-on-practical experience dealing with scene investigation.