Program	Contact	Date Updated
Firefighter Certification(s)	Larry Johnson, Fire Training	6.3.2024
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State	Meets educational Requirements	Does not meet educational Requirements
Alabama		x
Alaska		Х
American Samoa		х
Arizona		Х
Arkansas		Х
California		х
Colorado		Х
Connecticut		Х
Delaware		x
Florida		Х
Georgia		х
Guam		Х
Hawaii		Х
Idaho		x
Illinois		X
Indiana		х
Iowa		X
Kansas		Х
Kentucky		Х
Louisiana		Х
Maine		X
Maryland		х
Massachusetts		х
Michigan		Х
Minnesota		x
Mississippi		Х

State	Meets educational Requirements	Does not meet educational Requirements		
Nebraska		х		
Nevada		х		
New Hampshire		х		
New Jersey		x		
New Mexico		x		
New York		x		
North Carolina	*			
North Dakota		x		
Northern Mariana Islands		X		
Ohio		x		
Oklahoma		x		
Oregon		x		
Pennsylvania		x		
Puerto Rico		x		
Rhode Island		x		
South Carolina		х		
South Dakota		x		
Tennessee		x		
Texas		x		
US Virgin Islands		Х		
Utah		x		
Vermont		x		
Virginia		х		
Washington		x		
West Virginia		x		
Wisconsin		x		

State	Meets educational Requirements	Does not meet educational Requirements	State	Meets educational Requirements	Does not meet educational Requirements
Missouri		X	Wyoming		x
Montana		Х			х

Comments: Fire Fighter certification requirements vary by state and other individual factors; credentials, training, job experience, criminal history or military service.

Student applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. There are no standardized requirements across all 50 states for the Fire Fighter certification.

Most fire departments require applicants to be a minimum of 18 years old, have a current driver's license and a high school diploma or equivalent. Potential Fire Fighters must pass drug tests and a physical examination.

Many Fire Fighters must have emergency medical technician, or EMT, certification, in addition to a firefighter course. Sometimes certification is required for hiring, while other departments include it in training for new hires. Yet others expect firefighters to acquire certification on their own during the first year.

Many people think of taking Fire Fighter exams in other states, thinking it may be easier to get hired in another state. Chances are it is as tough (if not tougher) than where you currently live.

Other things to consider when getting Firefighter certification/degree:

Is your EMT certificate (or paramedic license) transferable? Many states (meaning state EMS agencies) do not accept EMT certificates or paramedic licenses from other states.

If you truly are interested in working out-of-state, pay the extra money to get your National Registry EMT certificate or National Registry Paramedic certificate.

Some states have reciprocity and some do not. California for example does not currently accept Firefighter I certificates from any other states.

To better prepare, you can either contact fire departments you are planning on applying, to or call the state fire marshal's office in the state you desire to work in.