

Professional Standards Ethics Bulletin

Fire Service



STATISTICS:

Cases Opened 8

Cases Pending 21

Cases Closed 10

Closed disposition:

- Revoked 2
- No Action 8
- No Revoke 0

Leadership:

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

~John Maxwell

It is the responsibility of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) with direction from the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board) to develop talented individuals into public safety professionals who are ethically, physically and emotionally fit, culturally competent, well trained, highly skilled and responsive to the needs of their communities. DPSST certifies Oregon fire service professionals who meet all of the Board-established standards, and denies or revokes the DPSST certification of those who do not meet or fall below the standards.

In an effort to increase the professionalism of the Oregon fire service while continuing to respect its voluntary nature, all Oregon fire service applicants for certification who have been convicted of a crime are subject to review as prescribed in Oregon Administrative Rule 259-009-0070. This rule defines which criminal convictions will result in a mandatory denial or revocation of DPSST fire service certifications, as well as when a discharge for cause from a fire service agency or non-mandatory criminal convictions will trigger a review by the Fire Policy Committee (FPC). The FPC review determines if DPSST certification standards have been violated and, if so, initiates proceedings to deny or revoke the fire service professional's certification.

The Professional Standards Ethics Bulletin has been developed as an educational tool aimed at providing insight and transparency into situations involving fire service professionals that may violate the Board's standards. The bulletin details the conduct and the resulting DPSST action. The names and agencies of the individuals in this report have been omitted to ensure the focus remains on the behavior.

Questions about these incidents or about DPSST's processes and procedures can be directed to DPSST: (503) 378-2100 or oregon.dpsst@state.or.us.

The following cases have resulted in consideration of revocation or denial of certifications by DPSST from **February through April 2016**.

Fire Service Professional A was convicted of several crimes which DPSST became made aware of from a newspaper article. After investigating, DPSST discovered Fire Service Professional A's arrests and convictions included:

- Criminal Driving While Suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, in March 2012.
- DUII, a Class C Felony, in March 2012.
- Criminal Driving While Suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, in May 2012.
- Criminal Driving While Suspended, a Class B Felony, in July 2015
- Criminal Driving While Suspended, a Class B Felony, in July 2015
- DUII, a Class C Felony, in July 2015.
- Criminal Driving While Suspended, a Class B Felony, in September 2015

DPSST notified Fire Service Professional A that his case would be heard by the FPC and gave him the opportunity to provide mitigating circumstances for the FPC's consideration. However, in March of 2016 Fire Service Professional A signed a Stipulation Voluntarily Relinquishing Certifications.

Fire Service Professional A's NFPA Fire Fighter I, NFPA Fire Fighter II, NFPA Driver, NFPA Pumper Operator, NFPA Aerial Operator, NFPA Fire Instructor I, and First Responder Operations certifications are Revoked.

Fire Service Professional B was discharged for cause due to allegations of misconduct that resulted in an internal investigation which revealed Fire Service Professional B had created a hostile work environment based on sexual harassment, as well as unprofessional behavior and serious misconduct unbecoming an officer of the fire department. In May 2015 DPSST served Fire Service Professional B with a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and Proposed/Final Order on Default and he requested a hearing. Fire Service Professional B was a no show for the hearing that was held in April 2016 resulting in a Default Final Order effective on the same day.

Fire Service Professional B's NFPA Fire Fighter I, NFPA Fire Fighter II, NFPA Driver, NFPA Pumper Operator, NFPA Fire Instructor I, and First Responder Operations certifications are revoked.

Important Notice

Maintenance re-certification occurs every even year, making this a maintenance re-certification year for fire service professional certifications. This is a way for agencies to recognize that proficiency is maintained by either frequently using the skills (service delivery), demonstrating proficiency through some type of evaluation or assessment (task performance), or through continuing education.

The purpose of maintenance re-certification is a directive from the FPC, which formed a sub-committee in 2003 to address a number of certification concerns. The maintenance requirements were a bi-product of that committee and were recommended by the Oregon fire service to have DPSST implement and facilitate this process. DPSST is mandated by OAR 259-009-0065 to carry out this function.

Maintenance re-certification packets will be mailed to each agency in the beginning of June and verification that maintenance requirements have been completed must be submitted, via the Maintenance Re-Certification Form, to DPSST by December 31st of every even year. Please see our website for frequently asked questions.

Reminders:

1. Update your agency roster via PAF's
2. Update any changes i.e. Training Officers and/or Authorized Signers
3. Use the "Reinstatement Form" to reactivate any lapsed certifications
4. Review fire service training records to ensure training has been recorded

If you have questions or concerns please contact Tina Diehl who can assist you. She can be reached at 503-378-2254 or by email at tina.diehl@state.or.us

**PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL
FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS**

www.dpsst.state.or.us 503-378-2100