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 November 2016 through January 2017.
Fire Service Professional A was convicted of Assault in the Fourth Degree in December 2014. Assault in the Fourth Degree is a discretionary disqualifying conviction for purposes of certification requiring review by the FPC. Fire Service Professional A was notified that her case would be reviewed by the FPC and allowed her an opportunity to submit information for the FPC to review. The FPC met and determined her conduct violates the core value of Honesty because she was not straightforward with investigators by initially denying having contact with the victim on the day in question. The FPC also determined that her conduct violates the core value of Justice based on the conduct surrounding her arrest and conviction of Assault in the Fourth Degree. The FPC did not find any aggravating circumstances. The FPC found as mitigating circumstances that she is a good standing member of her department, her letters of support to the FPC, her own written letter to the FPC, that she has no history of other criminal convictions, and the circumstances surrounding the reason she assaulted the victim. After considering the totality of the case the FPC voted unanimously that her conduct does not rise to the level to warrant the revocation of her certifications and the Board affirmed their recommendation.

Fire Service Professional A’s NFPA Operations Level Responder and Wildland Interface Fire Fighter are not revoked and her application for NFPA Fire Fighter I is not denied.

Fire Service Professional B has two out-of-state convictions, one in 2010 and again in 2011, of Assault and Battery Against a Family or Household Member, which is the Oregon equivalent of Assault in the Fourth Degree. Assault in the Fourth Degree is a discretionary disqualifying conviction for purposes of certification, requiring review by the FPC. Fire Service Professional B was notified that his case would be presented to the FPC and allowed him an opportunity to submit information for the FPC to review. The FPC found that his conduct violates the core value of Justice due to the conduct surrounding the two out-of-state arrests and convictions of Assault and Battery Against a Family or Household Member which is equivalent to Assault in the Fourth Degree in Oregon. The FPC found as aggravating circumstances his conduct surrounding his arrests and convictions of Assault and Battery Against a Family or Household Member and his arrests prior to these convictions. The FPC did not find any mitigating circumstances. After considering the totality of the case the FPC voted unanimously that his conduct rises to the level to warrant the revocation of his certification and the Board affirmed. Fire Service Professional B’s NFPA Fire Fighter I is revoked.
Fire Certification at a Glance

2016 Year End Statistics

Total Active Fire Service Professionals = 10,950

Applications for Certifications Received = 3,113

Certifications Issued = 3,305

PAF’s Processed = 4,499

Rosters Processed = 845

New DPSST Numbers Assigned = 1,142

F9F’s Processed = 252

PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

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