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 Rules (OAR) 259-009-0120, 259-009-0125, and 259-009-0130. These rules define which criminal convictions will result in a mandatory denial or revocation of DPSST fire service certifications, when a discharge from a fire service agency may fit the Board-established standard for discharge for cause resulting in the revocation of DPSST fire service certifications, or when 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.
UPCOMING COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

Telecommunications Policy Committee 08/07/2019
Corrections Policy Committee 08/13/2019
Private Security/Private Investigator Policy Committee 08/20/2019
Police Policy Committee 08/15/2019
Fire Policy Committee 08/28/2019
Board on Public Safety Standards and Training 10/24/2019

PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS
www.dpsst.state.or.us 503-378-2100
Fire Service Professional A (FSP A) was convicted of two counts of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. This conviction is a discretionary disqualifying conviction for the purposes of certification, requiring review by the Fire Policy Committee (FPC). FSP A was notified that their case would go before the FPC and was provided an opportunity to submit mitigation. The FPC reviewed and considered the aggravating and mitigating circumstances specific to this case as required by OAR 259-009-0125(4). The FPC found aggravating circumstances present in this case demonstrated by the fact this was FSP A’s second DUII in less than a month and has outstanding fees they owe to the court. In addition, this was a probation violation, there was a display of violent behavior during the arrest, FSP A lied to the arresting officer, and behaved poorly when taken to jail during the first arrest. The FPC found no mitigating circumstances in this case. The FPC determined that FSP A’s misconduct warrants Board action on their application for certification with an ineligibility period to hold fire certifications for 7 years. The Board approved the FPC’s recommendation.

FSP A’s NFPA Fire Fighter 1 application for certification is DENIED.

Fire Service Professional B (FSP B) was convicted of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. This conviction is a discretionary disqualifying conviction for the purposes of certification, requiring review by the FPC. FSP B was notified that their case would go before the FPC and was provided an opportunity to submit mitigation. The FPC reviewed and considered the aggravating and mitigating circumstances specific to this case as required by OAR 259-009-0125(4). The FPC found aggravating circumstances present in this case demonstrated by FSP B’s two arrests for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, the property damaged that occurred when FSP B drove recklessly, the fact that FSP B is still on probation in Washington, as well as outstanding fees they owe to the court. The FPC found mitigating circumstances present in the case demonstrated by FSP B’s submitted mitigation and that they have had no convictions since the last incident. The FPC determined that FSP B’s misconduct warrants Board action on their certifications with an ineligibility period to hold fire certifications for 2 years.

FSP B’s Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) certification is REVOKED.
DPSST Provides Fire Fighter Instructor Kits for All Oregon Fire Agencies

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has recently introduced the 2019 Edition of NFPA 1001: Standard of Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications. The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) permanently adopted the updated NFPA standard for training and certification in our state, for both career and volunteer firefighters, within Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR).

To ensure all Oregon fire departments and fire protection districts have access to the most current resources necessary to provide this important training in-house, DPSST worked with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) to provide all Oregon fire service agencies with Firefighter I and II training kits.

Near the end of June, a Seventh Edition of the IFSTA Essentials of Fire Fighting Instructor Resource Kit was sent out to every fire department and fire protection district in Oregon so that agency instructors have everything they need to offer this training to members of their organizations.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact a member of the DPSST Fire Training and Certification Program.

Fire Ground Leader

On June 20, 2018, the Fire Ground Leader Task Force convened at DPSST at the direction of the FPC to review and discuss the importance and relevance of the Fire Ground Leader certification to the Oregon fire service. Their decisions moved to the FPC on September 24, 2018 who, after a thoughtful discussion, recommended their updates to the Board. Before being presented to the Board, the OAR updates to Fire Ground Leader went through a Public Comment period from October 1 through 21. During this time, three public comments were received in disagreement with the updates.
The Public Comments returned to the Fire Ground Leader Task Force on February 27, 2019 for further discussion and consideration. After careful consideration, the Fire Ground Leader Task Force determined it is in the best interest of the Oregon fire service to keep with their decision to sunset this level of certification. Their reasoning included outdated curriculum for some of the courses required for certification, many Fire Ground Leader courses are infrequently offered causing delays in obtaining certification, steadily declining statistics of Fire Ground Leader applications and certifications, and that this level of certification had served its purpose for the Oregon fire service.

The Task Force’s decision moved back to the FPC for discussion on May 22, 2019. Many members of the FPC did express concern over the sunsetting of this level of certification, but ultimately the decision was made to recommend to the Board to continue with the original decision but with the sunset period
Our mission is to promote excellence in public safety by delivering quality training and developing and upholding professional standards for police, fire, corrections, parole and probation, and telecommunications personnel, in addition to licensing private security providers and private investigators in Oregon.

DPSST also regulates and licenses polygraph examiners, determines sheriff candidates’ eligibility to run for office and provides staffing for the Public Safety Memorial Fund. We strive to provide resources and certification programs that public safety officers and local public safety organizations need to maintain the highest professional skill standards, stewardship and service to Oregon’s communities and citizens. These services are based at our 236-acre academy and extend across the state through a network of regional training coordinators.

Agency functions are guided by several Oregon Revised Statutes and our authority is defined specifically in Chapter No. 259 of the Oregon Administrative Rules. We are governed by a 24-member Board and five discipline-specific policy committees; we serve more than 41,000 public safety constituents across the state.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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To view the Oregon Administrative Rules for Criminal Justice please visit: http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_200/oar_259/259_008.html