

INTRODUCTION

In 2003, the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council investigated complaints brought forward by the building industries related to inconsistent application of the fire code. After the investigation, the council agreed that inconsistent application of the fire code is a statewide problem. These findings emphasized the need to develop scope of practice competencies for fire service personnel conducting fire and life safety inspections in Oregon.

OREGON REQUIREMENTS

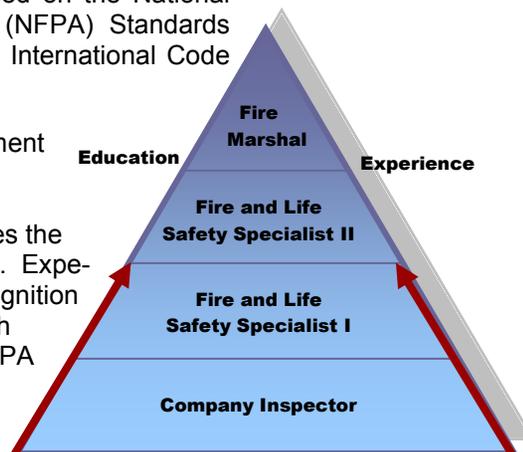
In January of 2008, the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) began the process of revising [Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 837, Division 039](#) Administration of Fire Prevention Programs. The rule revision requires a standardization of certification and training requirements for conducting fire code enforcement in Oregon. Fire departments are responsible for ensuring that fire code enforcement personnel meet the appropriate competency recognition requirements for their scope of practice. The rule revision went into effect on July 1, 2008.

¹ By state statute OAR [837-039-0011 \(4\)](#) All fire chiefs and every assistant to the state fire marshal meeting the definition under ORS 476.060 must complete the state fire marshal's Fire and Life Safety Awareness course module 1, Scope of Authority and Assembly Group A Occupancies.

MEASURING

The competency recognition program focuses on training and technical certifications for the scope of practice. The certifications include the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) Fire Inspector series, which are based on the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Standards for Fire Inspectors, as well as International Code Council (ICC) certifications.

Experience is the second element in competency development. While education provides the knowledge, experience provides the skills necessary to do the work. Experience in the competency recognition program is represented through completion of the DPSST's NFPA Fire Inspector task books.



COMPETENCY RECOGNITION LEVELS

The competency recognition levels are designed to build upon each other. There are four recognition levels.

- ²Level 1: Company Inspector — performs fire inspection in one and two story Group B and Group M occupancies with no high-piled or rack storage.
- Level 2: Fire and Life Safety Specialist I — performs basic fire safety inspections in all occupancies.
- Level 3: Fire and Life Safety Specialist II — performs fire safety inspections with moderate technical challenges.
- Level 4: Fire Marshal — performs fire safety inspections with advanced technical challenges.

²Level 1: *Successfully complete the OSFM's Company Inspection training program. No further competency requirements are necessary.*

REQUIREMENTS FOR LEVELS 2-4

OREGON CORE CURRICULUM

- ¹ Fire and Life Safety Awareness I training (online or classroom)
- ³Oregon Fire Code Amendment class (OFCA) (online or classroom)
- ⁴ Oregon Basic Building Code class (online)
- ⁵Oregon Basic Mechanical Code class (online)
- ⁶FLSA II training (online or classroom)

³In addition to maintaining ICC and NFPA certificates. Maintenance of Level 2, 3, 4 requires a current OFCA class within 1 year following the current code cycle change.

⁴Equivalencies include: ICC Building Plans Examiner or ICC Fire Plans Examiner plus Oregon Inspector certificate

⁵Equivalencies include: ICC Commercial Mechanical Inspector plus Oregon Inspector certificate.

⁶Equivalency : ICC Fire Plans Examiner

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

In addition to the general requirements, you must complete the associated DPSST NFPA Fire Inspector Task Book for that recognition level.

- Level 2: Specialist I — DPSST's NFPA Fire Inspector I
ICC Fire Inspector I
- Level 3: Specialist II — DPSST's NFPA Fire Inspector II
ICC Fire Inspector II
- Level 4: Fire Marshal — DPSST's NFPA Fire Inspector III
ICC Fire Inspector II

APPLY TODAY

To access the Oregon State Fire Marshal's online courses, log in at iLearnOregon: <https://ilearn.oregon.gov>

The Oregon Fire and Life Safety Competency Recognition application for Fire and Life Safety Specialist I, Fire and Life Safety Specialist II, and Fire Marshal is located on the following websites³

- [Office of State Fire Marshal:
https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Competency-Certification.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Competency-Certification.aspx)

If you have questions contact the Office of State Fire Marshal and ask to speak with the Fire and Life Safety Services Division at 503-934-8256.

³ Level 1: Company Inspector does not require an application for recognition. Students will receive their certificate upon successfully completing the class.

CONCLUSION

The challenges of today's fire service requires that fire personnel responsible for enforcing the fire code must meet their scope of practice. Only by working together to develop training opportunities and defining competencies can consistent application of the state fire code be achieved throughout Oregon.



Office of State Fire Marshal
and
Oregon Fire Marshals
Association

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<https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/pages/default.aspx>

Oregon's Fire and Life Safety Competency Recognition Program



A competency recognition program that defines competencies, provides education and recognizes commitment and scope of practice among fire and life safety professionals in Oregon.