OHIO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Thank You for Your Service

FIRE CERTIFICATIONS FOR MILITARY MEMBERS AND SPOUSES

Military Members and Families,

If you or your spouse are a current or retired member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the following information is provided to help you in obtaining certification by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services.

Armed forces as used in Chapter 4765 of the Ohio Administrative Code and in this document means the armed forces of the United States, including the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, or any reserve components of those forces; the national guard of any state; the commissioned corps of the United States public health service; the merchant marine service during wartime; such other service as may be designated by congress; or the Ohio organized militia when engaged in full-time national guard duty for a period of more than thirty days.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Certifications

Certification Renewal—Expired Certificate

A holder of an expired **firefighter or fire safety inspector** certificate will be granted a renewal of the certificate without penalty and without re-examination if not otherwise disqualified because of mental or physical disability and if either of the following applies:

- The license or certificate was not renewed because of the holder's service in the *armed forces.*
- The license or certificate was not renewed because the holder's spouse served in the *armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States,* and the service resulted in the holder's absence from this state.

A renewal shall not be granted unless the holder or the holder's spouse, whichever is applicable, has presented satisfactory evidence of the service member's discharge under honorable conditions or release under honorable conditions from active duty or national guard duty within six months after the discharge or release.

In order to be eligible for renewal, applicants shall submit an application along with proper documentation certifying active duty service and the length of that active duty service by the applicant or applicant's spouse, whichever is applicable, within six months of discharge or release.

Please note that automatic certification renewal DOES NOT alleviate the need to comply with continuing education requirements. If an extension is needed in order to complete continuing education for the current or prior reporting periods you may apply for an extension. Information on continuing education extensions is provided below.

There are no fees associated with certification renewals.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding the renewal of an expired certificate.

Continuing Education Extension

A certificate holder may request an extension of the **firefighter or fire safety inspector** continuing education reporting period because the certificate holder served in the Armed Forces during the current or a prior reporting period.

The certificate holder shall submit an application along with proper documentation certifying the active duty service and the length of that active duty service. Upon the submission of the application and verification of active duty service, the Division of EMS will extend the current reporting period by an amount of time equal to the total number of months that the certificate holder spent on active duty during the current reporting period. Any portion of a month served on active duty will be considered one full month.

There are no fees associated with continuing education extensions.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding an extension to complete continuing education requirements.

Consideration of Military Education, Training, or Service as Continuing Education

The Division of EMS will consider relevant education, training or service completed by a **firefighter or fire safety inspector** certificate holder as a member of the United States military in determining whether the certificate holder has fulfilled required continuing education.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding consideration of military education, training, or service for continuing education.

Exemption from Continuing Education

The Division of EMS *may* grant an applicant for renewal of a **firefighter or fire safety inspector** certificate a complete or partial exemption from compliance with continuing education requirements. In order to be eligible for the continuing education exemption applicants shall submit an application along with proper documentation certifying active duty service and the length of that active duty service by the applicant or applicant's spouse, whichever is applicable, within six months of discharge or release.

There are no fees associated continuing education exemption requests.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding an exemption from continuing education requirements.

Certification by Reciprocity

For purposes of granting reciprocity the Division of EMS will review **firefighter** licensing or certification requirements and firefighter training standards from another state, the District of Columbia, a United States territory, or the United States Armed Forces to identify those requirements and standards that are substantially equivalent to or exceed the educational requirement and certification standards set forth in Chapter 4765-11 of the Administrative Code.

Completion of a structured firefighter training course in another state, the District of Columbia, a United States territory, or the United States Armed Forces that is equal to or exceeds Ohio training standards and curriculum will be considered. The training course shall meet the requirements outlined in rule 4765-20-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

AN ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN MAY SUBMIT ANY DOCUMENTATION, EVIDENCE, STATEMENT OR ENDORSEMENT THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE OR PRODUCED FOR THE DIVISION'S CONSIDERATION TO DEMONSTRATE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES TO MEET THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

The Division of EMS will continue to support and prioritize veterans and will frequently review military programs of training, military primary specialties, and lengths of service that are substantially equivalent to or exceed the educational and experience requirements for a certification that is issued by the Division of EMS. If equivalencies are found in the future, the proper steps will be taken to ensure that a rule is developed and adopted in compliance with Ohio Revised Code 5903.03 (C).

There are no fees associated with certification by reciprocity.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding firefighter certification through reciprocity.

Instructor—Fire Instructor, Assistant Fire Instructor, and Fire Safety Inspector Instructor Certifications

Certification Renewal—Expired Certificate

A holder of an expired **instructor** certificate will be granted a renewal of the certificate without penalty and without re-examination if not otherwise disqualified because of mental or physical disability and if either of the following applies:

- The license or certificate was not renewed because of the holder's service in the *armed forces.*
- The license or certificate was not renewed because the holder's spouse served in the *armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States,* and the service resulted in the holder's absence from this state.

A renewal shall not be granted unless the holder or the holder's spouse, whichever is applicable, has presented satisfactory evidence of the service member's discharge under honorable conditions or release under honorable conditions from active duty or national guard duty within six months after the discharge or release.

In order to be eligible for renewal, applicants shall submit an application along with proper documentation certifying active duty service and the length of that active duty service by the applicant or applicant's spouse, whichever is applicable, within six months of discharge or release.

Please note that automatic certification renewal DOES NOT alleviate continuing education requirements. If an extension is needed in order to complete continuing education for the current or prior reporting periods you may apply for an extension. Information on continuing education extensions is provided below.

There are no fees associated with instructor certification renewals.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding the renewal of an expired certificate.

Continuing Education Extension

A certificate holder may request an extension of the **fire instructor, assistant fire instructor, or fire safety inspector instructor** continuing education reporting period because the certificate holder served in the Armed Forces during the current or a prior reporting period.

The certificate holder shall submit an application along with proper documentation certifying the active duty service and the length of that active duty service. Upon the submission of the application and verification of active duty service, the Division of EMS will extend the current reporting period by an amount of time equal to the total number of months that the certificate holder spent on active duty during the current reporting period. Any portion of a month served on active duty will be considered one full month.

There are no fees associated with continuing education extensions.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us regarding an extension to complete continuing education requirements.

Consideration of Military Education, Training, or Service as Continuing Education

The Division of EMS will consider relevant education, training or service completed by a **fire instructor** certificate holder as a member of the United States military in determining whether the certificate holder has fulfilled required continuing education.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding consideration of military education, training, or service for continuing education.

Exemption from Continuing Education

The Division of EMS *may* grant an applicant for renewal of a **fire instructor, assistant fire instructor, or fire safety inspector instructor** certificate a complete or partial exemption from compliance with continuing education requirements. In order to be eligible for the continuing education exemption applicants shall submit an application along with proper documentation certifying active duty service and the length of that active duty service by the applicant or applicant's spouse, whichever is applicable, within six months of discharge or release.

There are no fees associated with continuing education exemption requests.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding an exemption from continuing education requirements.

Certification by Reciprocity

For purposes of granting reciprocity the Division of EMS will review **fire instructor** licensing or certification requirements from another state, the District of Columbia, a United States territory, or the United States Armed Forces to identify those requirements and standards that are substantially equivalent to or exceed the educational requirement and certification standards set forth in Chapter 4765-11 of the Administrative Code.

The Division of EMS shall issue a **fire instructor** certificate by reciprocity to any applicant who possesses a current and valid certificate or license to teach fire training from another state, the District of Columbia, a United States territory, or the United States Armed Forces provided that the applicant meets the requirements outlined in rule 4765-21-12 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

AN ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN MAY SUBMIT ANY DOCUMENTATION, EVIDENCE, STATEMENT OR ENDORSEMENT THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE OR PRODUCED FOR THE DIVISION'S CONSIDERATION TO DEMONSTRATE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES TO MEET THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

The Division of EMS will continue to support and prioritize veterans and will frequently review military programs of training, military primary specialties, and lengths of service that are substantially equivalent to or exceed the educational and experience requirements for a certification that is issued by the Division of EMS. If equivalencies are found in the future, the proper steps will be taken to ensure that a rule is developed and adopted in compliance with Ohio Revised Code 5903.03 (C).

There are no fees associated with certification by reciprocity.

Contact the Division of EMS at (614) 466-9447 or (800) 233-0785, or via email at ems-firecertifications@dps.state.oh.us, regarding fire instructor certification through reciprocity.