

JIBC updates its firefighter training programs: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In September 2014, the [BC Office of the Fire Commissioner](#) (OFC) released a new firefighter training standard: [the Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook](#). It was developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Fire & Safety Division (FSD) at the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC).

Since then, the FSD has taken advantage of the release of the new standards in the Playbook as an opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of its existing courses and programs.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions relating to the changes to JIBC's firefighting training programs related to the new Playbook training standards.

What is happening to JIBC's vocational firefighting training programs?

JIBC is aligning its vocational firefighting training programs to the requirements established in the Playbook. JIBC's "Basic Fire Fighter," "BC Fire Fighter I," and "BC Fire Fighter I/II" programs will be replaced with "Exterior Fire Fighter Operations," "Interior Fire Fighter Operations," and "Full Service Fire Fighter Operations" programs.

When will these programs be available for registration?

Exterior Fire Fighter Operations will be available for registration by September 30, 2016. Interior Fire Fighter Operations and Full Service Fire Fighter Operations [were launched in February 2017](#).

What courses are in the Exterior Fire Fighter Operations program?

The Exterior Fire Fighter Operations program consists of four courses:

FIRE-1053	Exterior Fire Fighter Knowledge
FIRE-1054	Exterior Fire Fighter Skills
HZMT-1100	Hazardous Materials Emergency Response – Awareness Level
EMRG-1200	Incident Command System Level 100

How much will the new Exterior Fire Fighter Operations program cost?

As of July 1, 2016, the total cost of Exterior Fire Fighter Operations is \$410.92 per student plus applicable taxes. The breakdown is as follows:

Exterior Fire Fighter Knowledge (FIRE-1053)	\$150.00 +tax
Exterior Fire Fighter Skills (FIRE-1054)	\$60.00 +tax
Hazardous Materials Emergency Response – Awareness Level (HZMT-1100)	\$165.60 +tax
Incident Command System Level 100 (EMRG-1200)	\$35.32 +tax
TOTAL COST	\$410.92 +tax

I'm currently working through the modules in an existing program. Will I be able to complete my certification under an existing program?

Exterior Fire Fighter Operations was approved by JIBC Program Council in July 2016 and the Fire & Safety Division has been working with fire departments across the province to transition from the existing Basic Fire Fighting Certificate to Exterior Fire Fighter Operations.

Communication about this change was sent out September 1, 2016 through the BC Fire Training Officers Association (BCFTOA). If you have not received that information, please contact the Fire & Safety Division at VOCATIONALFFTC@jibc.ca for the required documents.

Can I enroll in an existing program or must I wait until the new programs are available?

On July 1, 2016, JIBC suspended all new applications to the Basic Fire Fighter, BC Fire Fighter I, and BC Fire Fighter I/II programs. Starting September 30, 2016, firefighters can apply for the new Exterior Fire Fighter Operations program. Interior Fire Fighter Operations and Full Service Fire Fighter Operations [were launched in February 2017](#).

Under the new programs, will I receive credit for courses I've completed under existing programs?

Firefighters that have been taking courses and writing exams in existing programs within the past 12 months will [receive transfer credit](#) for applicable courses in the new program. If it's been more than 12 months since you've taken a JIBC course or written an exam, you will need to re-enroll and re-apply through your department, and provide documentation about previous courses/programs completed in order to receive credit towards completion of a relevant new program.

How long do I have to request a Basic Fire Fighter Certificate exam?

Effective September 7, 2016, the Fire & Safety Division will only be accepting exam requests until September 16, 2016. Only online exam requests will be accepted.

How do I figure out what courses I'll need to obtain my certification under the new programs?

The FSD has provided [documents containing a matrix outlining the requirements to bridge between the old and new programs](#). These have been provided to fire departments. FSD staff will be working with fire departments in order to assist with bridging students/firefighters to the new programs.

What textbooks should I obtain to use in the new programs?

JIBC's programs will use *Fundamentals of Fire Fighting Skills, 3rd Canadian Edition*, published by Jones & Bartlett textbooks as their primary reference text for instructional materials and course exams. As added value in the new programs, JIBC students will be given electronic access to this textbook as part of their registration.

My fire department currently uses *IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting* as the textbook resource for our training. Will we still be able to use this text?

Yes, all three levels of firefighter operations as outlined in the Playbook have job performance requirements and competencies from *NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*. JIBC programs are designed to train and evaluate to the job performance requirements of NFPA 1001. Although this textbook can be used as a textbook resource, JIBC has referenced our exam bank and skills evaluations to Jones & Bartlett's *Fundamentals of Fire Fighting Skills, 3rd Canadian Edition*. As an added value in the new programs, JIBC students will be given electronic access to this textbook as part of their registration.

Which programs will receive NFPA certification?

Firefighters who complete Interior Fire Fighter Operations and Hazardous Materials Operations will receive their NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter Level 1 certification with IFSAC and ProBoard seals. Firefighters who complete Full Service Fire Fighter Operations will receive their NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter Level 2 certification with IFSAC and ProBoard seals. JIBC is looking in to obtaining IFSAC accreditation for completion of External Fire Fighter Operations. Students in all three programs will receive a JIBC Certificate of Achievement.

What training will be available to Training Officers?

JIBC's Training Officer Orientation & Training Workshop are being planned for February-April 2017 throughout the province. These workshops will provide Training Officers with an overview of program content and administration of each program.

What training will be available for Evaluators?

All JIBC Evaluators, regardless of program, will be required to [complete a new online Evaluator Training Course](#) and successfully complete a cognitive exam. As added value, Evaluators who also complete the Training Officer Orientation & Training Workshop will gain hands-on experience with performing practical skills evaluations as part of the workshop.

How will these changes benefit firefighters and fire departments?

Each program will be a stand-alone program and will provide the required education and training for firefighters based on the level of fire service a community has declared they provide as required by the Playbook legislation.

How will fire departments deliver the new programs?

Fire departments and individual firefighters will have flexible options available to them to complete their JIBC-accredited training. They can:

- Enroll in JIBC's online courses to complete the knowledge portion of their program and finish their practical training in-house using JIBC's practical skills lesson plans.
- Use JIBC lesson plans as the basis to complete both the knowledge portion and practical portion of their training, which they can complete entirely in-house.

Regardless of the delivery options used, evaluations will be done by JIBC-accredited Evaluators.

Will JIBC continue to offer the Fire Fighting Technologies Certificate in a face-to-face delivery format for pre-employment students or individuals wanting to attain a career firefighter position?

Yes, JIBC will continue to offer pre-employment training and *NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter II* certification for individuals that want to attain a career the fire service through our Maple Ridge Campus. These students will graduate with a 30-credit BC Ministry of Advanced Education-approved Fire Fighting Technologies Certificate (FFTC). As added value, firefighters in the new programs (Exterior, Interior and Full Service) will be completing the same course requirements and achieving the same credits. This means that firefighters in the new programs will also be able to graduate with the FFTC.

What is the benefit of receiving academic credit for completing these new programs?

This will give firefighters an opportunity to further their education to advance in their career. Under the existing programs, no academic credit is granted. The new training programs will align with, and ladder into, JIBC's Fire Fighting Technologies Certificate (FFTC). Completion of the FFTC will provide credits that can be used towards the Fire & Safety Studies Diploma and JIBC's relevant bachelor degrees.

The provincial legislation states that fire departments must be training to the new standards and competencies outlined in the Playbook by June 30, 2016. How will my fire department accomplish this if the new programs (Exterior, Interior and Full Service) will not be launched until Fall 2016?

Fire departments that are currently involved with JIBC programs like the Basic Fire Fighter, BC Fire Fighter I and/or BC Fire Fighter I & II programs are training to *NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications* which the job performance requirements and competencies of the Playbook were designed from. The JIBC is re-designing our programs to specifically align with the Playbook in order to make training program selection and management easier and consistent for everyone (firefighters, Training Officers, Fire Chiefs, and JIBC staff). For these reasons, we will be able to bridge completed modules in the current programs into the new programs.

Will the Team Leader (Exterior and Interior) and Risk Management Officer training be available and launched at the same time as the new programs?

Completion of the following JIBC courses will meet or exceed the requirements within the Playbook for the various levels:

Team Leader (Exterior and Interior)*

- EMRG-1200 & EMRG-1220 Incident Command System 100 and 200 (Incident Command competencies)
- FIRE-1112 Emergency Scene Management I (Fireground accountability, pre-incident planning, size-up and action planning)

* *To be eligible to become a Team Leader (Exterior and/or Interior), it is a prerequisite that firefighters complete Exterior Fire Fighter Operations and/or Interior Fire Fighter Operations.*

Risk Management Officer

- FIRE-1186 Incident Safety Officer
- Other course listed as a requirement is offered through FCABC/LGMA and CAFC

For the **Company Officer level**, all of the job performance requirements would be met by completing JIBC Fire Officer I. Firefighters/students that complete all of the courses within Fire Officer I and meet the certification requirements, Fire-1201 Fire Service Instructor I (or are certified to *NFPA 1041 Fire Service Instructor I*) and have met the job performance requirements of *NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter II*, will receive certification to *NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I* with IFSAC and Pro Board seals.

Why should fire departments take JIBC Exterior FF Operations, Interior FF Operations, or the Full Service Operations programs?

There are many added benefits and advantages for participating in the new JIBC programs. To name a few:

- IFSAC and Pro Board accreditation results in certification to NFPA professional qualifications with IFSAC and Pro Board seals. The Interior Fire Fighter Operations with Hazmat Operations will result in certification to *NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter I*. Completion of the Full Service Fire Fighter Operations will result in certification to *NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter II*. JIBC is also exploring the possibility of attaining IFSAC accreditation for Exterior FF Operations level.
- Third party evaluation by JIBC-accredited Evaluators of your training adds credibility to the training and leads to certification.
- JIBC transcripts will show all of the courses and programs taken with grades achieved for each member of your department.
- Each firefighter will receive electronic access to Jones & Bartlett's *Fundamentals of Fire Fighting Skills, 3rd Canadian Edition* when they register for courses with the programs.
- Firefighters gain academic credit by completing JIBC courses in each new program. This enables firefighters who want to continue their education to complete the 30-credit Fire Fighting Technology Certificate (FFTC). The FFTC also ladders into the Fire & Safety Studies Diploma for further education and professional development.
- JIBC provides lesson plans and teaching aids for consistent and accurate delivery of course content.
- Flexible delivery options are available to fire departments to support in-house delivery of JIBC firefighter programs and support student success.

If your question has not been answered in this FAQ, please send your inquiry to fire@jibc.ca or contact Dave Wallack, FSD Program Manager at dwallack@jibc.ca.