

# Fire Apparatus Driver / Operator Aerial

## Certification Procedure Guide



This Certification Procedure Guide reflects the requirements of:

**NFPA 1010: Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters, 2024 Edition**

# Introduction to Fire Apparatus Driver / Operator Aerial Certification

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FSTB website:

[Fire Service Training Bureau | Iowa Department of Public Safety](#)

FSTB Certification phone number: 515-727-3447

Candidates wishing to attain national certification at the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator - Aerial level through the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau Certification System must start the process by attending an FSTB-approved course of instruction prior to registering for and paying the fee for a seat at one of the State's regional examination sites. Per the Iowa Administrative Code Section 251.201(2) examination fees are due at the time of registration and no later than 2 weeks prior to the examination date.

Candidates will register for examinations through their Acadis portal account.

<https://iafstb.acadisonline.com/acadisviewer/login.aspx>

Candidates are given twelve (12) months to complete each certification process. This time limit starts when the candidate takes their FIRST examination for this level (pass or fail).

The initial registration fee is \$50 allows the candidate one (1) attempt to pass each component, written and practical skills, of the examination. After this, every RETAKE is charged a \$50 fee. (If the candidate fails only one of the examinations (either written or practical skills), they are charged \$50 to retake the failed exam. However, if the candidate fails both the written and practical skills exams, they are charged \$50 to retake **EACH** examination again, meaning they must pay \$100 to take both exams again).

If the twelve (12) month time limit expires and the candidate has not successfully completed all the requirements for this certification process, the candidate's record is archived, and the candidate will have to restart the process.

Local Documentation Forms (found at the back of this guide) MUST be submitted and approved within twelve (12) months from when the candidate starts the certification process for this level.

# Fire Apparatus Driver / Operator - Aerial Certification Requirements

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## **Prerequisites:**

Candidates pursuing certification at the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator - Aerial level must meet the following conditions:

1. Be a current member of a fire, emergency or rescue organization within the State of Iowa or enrolled in a Fire Science program within the Iowa College System. All candidates pursuing certification shall be at least 18 years of age. (Iowa Administrative Code, Section 661-251.201(1))
2. Hold current certification at the HazMat Awareness & Operations level according to NFPA 472 - Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials / Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents or NFPA 1072 - Standard for Hazardous Materials / Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications or NFPA 470 - Hazardous Materials / Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders
3. Hold current certification at the Fire Fighter I level according to NFPA 1001 - Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications or NFPA 1010 - Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters
4. Hold current certification at the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator - Pumper level according to NFPA 1002 - Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications or NFPA 1010 - Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters
5. MUST have attended a FSTB-approved Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator - Aerial course of instruction within the past two (2) years of starting the certification process.

**An official picture ID (e.g., driver's license, state-issued identification card, military ID, etc.) must be presented for admittance to ANY written and practical examination.**

**Candidates can register for ONLY one exam site at a time. Multiple registrations for the same level examination will be DENIED.**

## **Written Examination:**

The Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator - Aerial written examination is based on Job Performance Requirements listed in NFPA 1010 - Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters, 2024 edition.

- The Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator - Aerial written examination contains 75 multiple choice questions.

- Candidates are required to score a minimum of 70% on the written examination. Candidates who fail the written examination will have to register to retake the written examination at another examination site along with paying the registration fee of \$50. Candidates may not take the written examination more than once per day.
- This chart shows the maximum time allowed for the written examinations based on the number of questions on the examination.

# of Questions	Time
30	36 Minutes
50	60 Minutes
75	90 Minutes
100	120 Minutes

### Practical Skills Examination:

The Fire Apparatus Driver / Operator - Aerial practical skills examination is based on Job Performance Requirements listed in NFPA 1010 - Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters, 2024 Edition.

- Practical skills are evaluated on a Pass / Fail basis determined by completing 100% of the skill steps.
- **Two (2)** skills will be randomly selected and evaluated for each examination site.
- Candidates are allowed two (2) attempts to pass each skill station. Candidates failing their first attempt will return to the designated staging area and upon availability, be evaluated on their second attempt by a different evaluator. Candidates who fail both attempts, constituting a failure of the practical skills examination, will have to register to retake the practical skills examination at another examination site along with paying the registration fee of \$50. Candidates may not take the practical skills examination more than once per exam day.

### Practical Skills Available for Evaluation:

1. Driving / Operating: Cone Course
2. Operations: Maneuver and Position an Aerial Apparatus / Stabilize an Aerial Apparatus / Maneuver and position the Aerial device from Each Control Station / Lower an Aerial Device Using the Emergency Operating System
3. Operations: Deploy and Operate an Elevated Master Stream

## Local Documentation Form:

1. The candidate may submit the **2 PAGE** Local Documentation Form, signed by the Fire Chief, Training Officer or College Program Chair by attaching the scan to their registration in the Acadis portal or at ANY time during the one-year time frame by emailing [ghoward@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:ghoward@dps.state.ia.us).

## References / Textbooks:

- IFSTA, *Pumping & Aerial Apparatus Driver / Operator Handbook*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2015
- J&B, *Fire Apparatus Driver / Operator: Pump, Aerial, Tiller and Mobile Water Supply*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2025

**Please keep a copy of all your certification documentation for your records.**

# Fire Apparatus Driver / Operator - Aerial Local Documentation Form Page 1

NFPA 1010 - 2024

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

ACADIS Academy ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

## Local Documentation Requirements

- NFPA 1010 - 2024, Preventative Maintenance 11.2.1, 11.2.2: Perform visual and operational checks:**  
The candidate has successfully demonstrated the ability to perform visual and operational checks, so that the operational status of the vehicle is verified and all items are checked for operation.
- NFPA 1010 - 2024, Driving / Operating 11.3.1: Operate a fire apparatus:**  
The candidate has successfully demonstrated the ability to operate a fire apparatus through a pre-determined route on a public way that incorporates maneuvers and features that the driver / operator is expected to encounter during normal operations, so that the vehicle is operated in compliance with all applicable state and local laws and departmental rules and regulations..
- NFPA 1010 - 2024, Driving / Operating 11.3.6: Operate a fire apparatus:**  
The candidate has successfully demonstrated the ability to operate a vehicle using defensive driving techniques, given an assignment and a fire apparatus, so that control of the vehicle is maintained.

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**This section is to be completed by Fire Chief, Training Officer or College Program Chair**

I affirm that the candidate identified above has met the requirements listed in the above paragraph(s). All requirements have been successfully conducted and completed per local department protocol and procedures.

**Information listed above can be validated by a copy of the documents maintained by the department.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief / Training Officer / College Program Chair (**PRINT**)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief / Training Officer / College Program Chair (**SIGNATURE**)

**CIRCLE ONE**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department or College: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Once a candidate starts the certification process for this level, this form can be submitted at ANY time during the candidate's one-year time period to complete this certification.**

Scan the completed document and email to: [goward@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:goward@dps.state.ia.us)

# Local Documentation Form Page 2 - Driving Evaluation

This section is to be completed by the Driving Evaluator

No.	Evaluated Skill Items	First Time		Retest	
		Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
1.	Possessed valid driver's license in accordance with department SOP.				
2.	Operated passenger restraint devices.				
3.	Ensured all occupants were seated and restrained.				
4.	Maintained safe following distances.				
5.	Maintained control of vehicle while accelerating, decelerating, and turning.				
6.	Used automotive gauges and controls.				
7.	Used turn signals.				
8.	Operated within all traffic laws and department SOPs.				
9.	Performed all required maneuvers on predetermined route <b>(if applicable)</b> :				
	a. Four left turns.				
	b. Four right turns.				
	c. Straight section of business street or two-lane rural road at least 1 mile long.				
	d. One through intersection.				
	e. Two intersections where a stop has to be made.				
	f. One railroad crossing (may be simulated/designated if no track in district)				
	g. One curve, either left or right.				
	h. Section of limited-access highway with conventional entrance/exit ramps.				
	i. Two lane changes on highway.				
	j. Downgrade steep enough to require down-shifting and braking.				
	k. Upgrade steep enough and long enough to require gear changing.				
l. Underpass or a low clearance or bridge.					

I affirm that the candidate identified on this form has demonstrated the above driving and operating techniques in compliance with the NFPA 1010, all applicable state and laws, and local departmental policies and procedures.

**Information listed above can be validated by a copy of the documents maintained by the department.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name of Driving Evaluator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Driving Evaluator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department or College: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Email: \_\_\_\_\_

