



Fire Department

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February 4, 2020

Ms. Griselda Aldrete
Executive Director
Fire and Police Commission
200 East Wells Street, Room 706
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Executive Director Aldrete:

This letter serves as a formal request to cease using a “practical” analysis segment as part of the Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Exam. Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter 330, Subchapter VI, SPS 330.08 (2)(a) states **every new pumper operator or new aerial operator shall meet the minimum requirements specified by:**

- (a) An entry-level driver/operator-pumper or driver/operator-aerial course approved by the technical college system board.
- (d) NFPA 1002: Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications.

Beginning with the 2018 HEO exam, we (MFD and FPC) agreed to include obtaining state certification in both driver/operator-pumper and driver/operator-aerial as a pre-requisite for eligibility to take the HEO exam.

The MFD Training Academy is a recognized State Training Center, identical to the state VOTC system colleges (such as MATC), with the exception that we can only host MFD employees. With that understanding, we must adhere to the state curriculum, rules and standard set forth by the Wisconsin Technical College System.

The state driver/operator-pumper or driver/operator-aerial courses are certification courses which require both a written and practical exam. This included final exam testing is conducted by proctors assigned by the Wisconsin Technical College Fire Services Education Office.

The practical exam elements for aerial operator include a pre-trip inspection, a simulated emergency driving exercise, staged non-emergency exercise, an over-the-road driving evolution, an aerial device positioning evolution, a stabilizing aerial apparatus exercise, and an operating aerial device exercise.

The practical exam elements for pumper operator included a pre-trip inspection, a simulated emergency driving exercise, a staged non-emergency exercise, an over-the-road driving evolution, basic pumping exercise, and advanced pumping evolution.

Given the depth of these practical exam elements, I strongly believe that the state exam exceeds the current practical portion of the FPC Heavy Equipment Operator Exam. Therefore, I request to remove the practical segment of the FPC HEO exam from the testing process.

I am available to meet with you, along with my team, to discuss this in greater depth should you have questions or concerns. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration in approving my request. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


MARK ROHLFING
Chief

MR/cf
FPC\HEO Exam – Cease Practical