

Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Standard Operational Guideline

Interior Firefighter Qualifications

Revised 03-06-2006

- Purpose: To define what an interior firefighter is and to define the criteria necessary to become and maintain interior firefighter status in the Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company.
- Definition: An interior firefighter is a firefighter who meets the physical and minimum training requirements necessary to wear self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and perform fire suppression and rescue activities during interior structural firefighting. The physical and training requirements are listed below. Interior firefighters are required to be certified by the Chief to be an interior firefighter. This authorization is given in the form of a “Green Accountability Tag” and shall be reviewed annually.
- Physical Criteria: To serve as an interior firefighter in the Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, firefighters must pass an annual physical examination administered by the company’s occupational health provider. This examination shall include the administration of a “fit test” consistent with the guidelines stated in O.S.H.A. 29 CFR 1910.134 - Respiratory Hazards for Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH). If appropriate, the company’s occupational health provider will certify firefighters as physically fit for interior structure firefighting activities and will notify the Chief of such designation. Firefighters who do not successfully pass the annual physical examination and fit test will not be authorized to server as an interior firefighter.
- Training: In order to be considered for qualification as an interior firefighter, the candidate must first successfully complete NYS Firefighter I or an equivalent training class (e.g., Essentials of Firefighting). The candidate must then complete a minimum of three in-company smokehouse training sessions under the observations of the Chief or his/her designee. After the completion of the smokehouse training, the firefighter’s progress will be assessed by the Chief in consultation with the firematic officers and a decision will be rendered as to whether or not the firefighter is deemed suitable to be designated as an interior firefighter. If the firefighter is not deemed to be proficient and confident in performing interior structural firefighting activities, he/she will be referred for additional training and subsequent reassessments will be performed as deemed appropriate by the Chief.

Annual:

In order to maintain certification as an interior firefighter, a minimum of two smokehouse and two non-smokehouse firematic trainings shall be attended annually. Additionally, an annual physical examination (as outlined above) shall be passed. Enrollment in firematic classes such as Firefighter II, Firefighter Survival and other courses will count towards these requirements. Any firefighter who fails to meet the annual certification requirements shall have his/her green tag revoked until such time that they meet certification requirements.