

**FIRE CHIEF  
STUDY GUIDE**

A written examination for the class of **FIRE CHIEF** administered in **ST. TAMMANY F.P.D. NO. 1** will consist of two parts which will be administered during separate exam sessions. The multiple-choice examination will be administered during the first exam session at **9:30 a.m.** and a direct writing exercise will be administered during the second exam session beginning at **1:30 p.m.** on **SEPTEMBER 5, 2013**. You must take both parts of the examination in order to receive a grade, although the primary weighting of the total exam results will focus on the multiple-choice examination. A complete description of the subject areas to be evaluated follows:

**MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAMINATION**

The multiple-choice examination will consist of approximately 120 questions in the following subject areas:

<b>SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM</b>
<b>FIRE ADMINISTRATION</b>  Knowledge of the principles of effective fire service administration, including management theory and organizational behavior, planning and research, productivity evaluation, risk management, and establishing a system for internal department controls; financial management; and managing equipment, property, and supplies.	25.8%
<b>PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS</b>  Knowledge of accepted practices in personnel management and of the procedures for developing and maintaining an effective employee relations program, including recruitment and selection, performance evaluation, grievance resolution, and applicable provisions of civil service law.	11.7%
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT/WRITTEN COMMUNICATION</b>  Knowledge of effective information management practices, including establishing policy for and overseeing a system for the preparation, control, and retention of records. Knowledge of the information gathering process and compilation of data into an effective written format for correspondence, reports, or other formal department communications.	6.7%
<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>  Knowledge of effective public relations practices which foster a positive public image of the department through contact with the media, other agencies, and the public.	6.7%
<b>PUBLIC FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION</b>  Knowledge of the procedures involved in developing and conducting a fire prevention/public education program to address specific community needs.	6.7%

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE	APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM
<p><b>SUPERVISION</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the practices and techniques used in effective supervision in order to plan, organize, direct, and evaluate the work of subordinates, to resolve conflicts, and to maintain discipline.</p>	19.2%
<p><b>TRAINING</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the procedures for evaluating the training needs of the department and for developing and implementing an effective training program.</p>	5.0%
<p><b>FIREGROUND COMMAND/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the procedures necessary to manage operations at the scene of a fire or other emergency, in order to develop and implement an emergency management system; to direct and control emergency operations, including the handling of hazardous materials; to monitor the activities of command staff; to provide a system of emergency medical care; and to establish and implement fire ground communications.</p>	11.7%
<p><b>FIRE PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION</b></p> <p>Knowledge of fire prevention procedures, of life safety codes, and of arson investigation procedures in order to direct a program of fire inspections, pre-fire planning, and fire scene investigations.</p>	6.7%

**DIRECT WRITING EXERCISE**

This portion of the examination is a management simulation exercise. You will be asked to respond by letter to a particular problem based upon your fire administrative ability and other information which will be provided to you. Your grade on this portion of the examination will be based not only on your writing skills, but also on your management skills in deciding how to handle the problem, and your public relations ability in handling a sensitive issue. The following dimensions will be used to evaluate your written response:

**SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE**

**NO. 1 - WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ability to communicate a particular message in written form by using appropriate syntax, correct grammar, and punctuation. Ability to appropriately organize the written communication.

**NO. 2 - CONTENT PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

Ability to identify the problem, analyze relevant information while relating data from different sources, and determine appropriate response.

NO. 3 - INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS:

Ability to be sensitive to the concerns of others and have empathy for their point of view. Ability to work in a politically charged atmosphere with political sensitivity, diplomacy, and tact. The appropriate response will maximize the public relations potential of the situation.

**REFERENCE LIST**

While the entire list of reference material will be useful to you in your preparation for the upcoming examination, the **majority** of test questions are sourced from those references listed under the Primary List.

**PRIMARY REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**EFFECTIVE SUPERVISORY PRACTICES**, International City Management Association (ICMA), 1120 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, 4th ed., 2005.

**NOTE: Obtain through LSU Firemen Training Program or IFSTA Fire Protection Publications.**

**MANAGING FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**, International City Management Association (ICMA), 1140 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 1st ed., 2002.

**NOTE: Available through LSU Firemen Training Program or IFSTA Fire Protection Publications.**

**MANAGEMENT IN THE FIRE SERVICE**, Carter, Harry R., and Rausch, Erwin, NFPA, Quincy Mass., 4th ed., 2008.

**INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ASSOCIATION (IFSTA)/ FIRE PROTECTION PUBLICATIONS** (Training Manuals):

Chief Officer, 2nd ed., 2004.

Fire and Life Safety Educator, 2nd ed., 1997.

**FIRE PROTECTION HANDBOOK**, NFPA, 19th ed., 2003.

**FIRE COMMAND**, Brunacini, Alan V., NFPA, 2nd ed., 2002.

**EFFECTIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS**, Cutlip, Scott M./Center, Allen M./Broom, Glen M., Prentice-Hall, Inc., A Simon & Schuster Company, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458, 8th ed., 2000.

The local civil service board should make this study guide available to all applicants in whatever manner the board deems appropriate.

While there are no provisions requiring this office to provide study guides for any competitive or promotional examinations, such material will be provided as a service to assist applicants in preparing for an examination. The State Examiner's office has no control whatsoever over the local availability of reference material (mentioned in the study guides), nor do we feel constrained to limit examination questions to only that material which is available locally. Examination content, weighting of subject areas, and length of examination, may vary with each administration of an examination to reflect any updated job analysis information. Percentages and numerical estimations are provided as approximations.

