

Overview of Municipal Certifications in Tennessee
MTAS | July 2019

Department	Certification/License	Issuing Body	Required or Not Required/Best Practice	Applies to Individual or Department	Why important
Building Codes	Fire Prevention, Building, Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector Certifications	TN State Fire Marshal's Office	Required	Individual	The purpose of inspector certification is to establish uniform minimum requirements designed to increase the level of competency and reliability of code enforcement personnel, to the level that will enhance each local government's ability to protect the lives and property of its citizens from improper construction, fire, and related hazards. Have 12 months after hired to complete certification – T.C.A. 6-54-511. Building and fire certification required for inspectors at local level – T.C.A. 68-120-113 Plumbing and mechanical certification required for local inspectors – T.C.A. 68-120-118
Building Codes	Administrative Hearing Officer	MTAS	Required	Individual	Note: In order to perform as an AHO, person must first be a licensed building, plumbing, or electrical inspector, or be a licensed attorney, architect or engineer, or an administrative law judge
Court	Judge-Law License	Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Only a licensed lawyer can adequately deal with the legal issues that arise in city court. An unlicensed person acting as judge could lead to liability for city.
Engineering	Professional Engineer (P.E.)	TN Department of Commerce and Insurance, Board of Architects and Engineers	Required	Individual	Compliance with T.C.A. §12-4-107
Finance	Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC)	TN Secretary of State	Required	Individual	Compliance with (T.C.A.) § 6-54-120
Finance	Certified Municipal Finance Officer	TN Comptroller's Office	Required	Individual	TCA §6-56-401 et.seq.
Finance	Certified Government Finance Manager (CGFM)	Association of Government Accountants	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Professional Expertise
Finance	Certified Public Finance Officer	Government Finance Officers Association	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Professional Expertise
Finance	Certified Public Accountant	TN State Board of Accountancy	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Professional Expertise
Fire	See separate listing for Fire				
Gas	Specific natural gas system functions	TN Public Utilities Commission	Required	Individual	Natural gas employees must be certified by the gas system for specific job functions. It is regulated by the public utilities commission in TN and well as the Federal Government. It is part of the pipe line safety program and is required and must be approved by the state.
Legal	Law License	Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility	Required	Individual	Law license is required for any person representing city in legal capacity

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Planning	AICP certification for "planning directors" for a municipal planning commission	American Institute of Certified Planners	Required	Individual	T.C.A. 13-4-102 Certification is required for planning directors and would be a best practice for planners otherwise working with cities.
Planning--Board of Zoning Appeals	Members Must obtain 4 hours of training within 1 year of appointment, and 4 hours yearly		Required	Individual	(T.C.A. 13-7-205) Note: Building commissioner, planner or other administrative official advising board of zoning appeals required to have 8 hours of training annually (T.C.A. 13-7-205) Note – a professional planner who is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is exempt from training requirements
Planning--Municipal Planning Commission	Members must obtain 4 hours of training within 1 year of appointment to commission, and must continue to get 4 hours of training yearly. Note – a professional planner who is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is exempt from training requirements		Required	Individual	(T.C.A. 13-4-101)
Planning--Regional Planning Commission	Members must obtain 4 hours of training within 1 year of appointment to commission, and must continue to get 4 hours of training yearly. Note – a professional planner who is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is exempt from training requirements		Required	Individual	(T.C.A. 13-4-101)
Police	POST certification	POST Commission	Required	Individual	Fulltime officers must be certified as required by state law. POST=Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (state of Tennessee)
Police	CALEA certification	CALEA	Not Required/Best Practice	Department	Requires self-assessment for three years. Ensures department meets nationally recognized standards/best practices. CALEA=Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies
Police	TLEA Certification	TACP	Not Required/Best Practice	Department	Requires self-assessment for three years. Ensures department meets nationally recognized standards/best practices. TLEA=Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program TACP=Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police
Public Works	American Public Works Association (APWA) Agency Certification	APWA	Not Required/Best Practice	Department	Reputation; competence; performance
Public Works	Certified Public Fleet Professional	APWA	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Personal and departmental prestige
Public Works	Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector	APWA	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	
Public Works	Certified Public Works Professional Supervision	APWA	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	
Public Works	Certified Public Works Professional Management	APWA	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	

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Public Works	Certified Stormwater Manager	APWA	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	
Solid Waste	Commercial Drivers License (CDL)	TN Dept. of Safety	Required	Individual	Compliance with TN law
Solid Waste	Landfill Operator Certification	TDEC	Required	Individual	Compliance with TN regulations
Wastewater	Plant Operator	TDEC	Required	Individual	State law; More than one certified plant operators is a best practice
Wastewater	Collection System Operator	TDEC	Required	Individual	State law; More than one certified plant operators is a best practice
Wastewater	Industrial Pretreatment	KY/TN Water Environment Association	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	TDEC recommends this third party certification for industrial pretreatment coordinators, but there is no legal requirement
Water	Water Treatment (license)	TDEC	Required	Individual	Required by TDEC and a 1996 revision to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It is to ensure the protection of the individuals drinking the water provided by the system.
Water	Distribution (license)	TDEC	Required	Individual	Required by TDEC and a 1996 revision to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It is to ensure the protection of the individuals drinking the water provided by the system.
Water	Cross Connection Control Device	TDEC	Required	Individual	Issued by TDEC for individuals to check cross connection devices required for certain customers whose business could allow hazardous materials into the water system. It is required of the people who do the checks but the city may allow a private contractor do the checks and not have a city employee with the license.

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Fire	Recognized Fire Department	State Fire Marshal's Office	Required	Department	Required by T.C.A. § 68-102-301 for the fire department to exist legally, to receive funds from any source, and to participate in Firefighting Commission programs
Fire	Assistant to the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance	State Fire Marshal's Office	Required	Individual	Required by T.C.A. § 68-102-305 for the fire chief or similar official
Fire	Introduction to the Fire Service (FF050)	Tennessee Fire and Codes Enforcement Academy	Required	Individual	This is a minimum training requirement, not a certification, but it is required by T.C.A. § 4-24-112 unless the firefighter is in an exempt county. Refer to T.C.A. for the exempt counties
Fire	Basic Firefighting (FF100)	Tennessee Fire and Codes Enforcement Academy	Required	Individual	This is a minimum training requirement, not a certification, but it is required by T.C.A. § 4-24-112 unless the firefighter is in an exempt county. Refer to T.C.A. for the exempt counties
Fire	Firefighter Live Burn (FF111)	Tennessee Fire and Codes Enforcement Academy	Required	Individual	This is a minimum training requirement, not a certification, but it is required by T.C.A. § 4-24-112 unless the firefighter is in an exempt county. Refer to T.C.A. for the exempt counties
Fire	Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOIC) - Vanessa K. Free Act	Various agencies and fire departments can teach this class	Required	Individual	This is a minimum training requirement, not a certification, but it is required annually by T.C.A. § 55-8-194 for anyone who drives an emergency vehicle in an official capacity
Fire	Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)	State of Tennessee Department of Health	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Required only if the fire department wants the person to provide basic emergency medical care
Fire	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	State of Tennessee Department of Health	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Required only if the fire department wants the person to provide a level of emergency medical care that is more than basic
Fire	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)	State of Tennessee Department of Health	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Required only if the fire department wants the person to provide an advanced level of emergency medical service
Fire	Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P)	State of Tennessee Department of Health	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Required only if the fire department wants the person to provide the highest level of emergency medical care including EKG interpretation, medication administration, and advanced airway care
Fire	Hazardous Materials Awareness	Tennessee Fire and Codes Enforcement Academy and/or TEMA	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of the awareness level skills found in NFPA Standard 1072, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents
Fire	Hazardous Materials Operations	Tennessee Fire and Codes Enforcement Academy and/or TEMA	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of the operations level skills found in NFPA Standard 1072, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents
Fire	Hazardous Materials Technician	Tennessee Fire and Codes Enforcement Academy and/or TEMA	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills found in NFPA Standard 1072, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents

Means infrequently used certifications

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Fire	Firefighter-I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of basic firefighting skills found in NFPA Standard 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications
Fire	Firefighter-II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of advanced firefighting skills found in NFPA Standard 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications
Fire	Airport Firefighter	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of the skills found in NFPA Standard 1003, Standard for Airport Firefighter Professional Qualifications
Fire	Wildland Firefighter-I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of basic firefighting skills found in NFPA Standard 1051, Standard for Wildland Firefighting
Fire	Wildland Firefighter-II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all firefighting skills found in NFPA Standard 1051, Standard for Wildland Firefighting
Fire	Pumper Driver Operator	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of selected skills regarding the driving and operation of fire pumpers (fire engines) found in NFPA Standard 1002, Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Professional Qualifications
Fire	Aerial Apparatus Driver Operator	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of selected skills regarding the driving and operation of aerial apparatus (ladder trucks) found in NFPA Standard 1002, Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Apparatus Operator	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills regarding the driving and operation of both fire pumpers (fire engines) and aerial apparatus (ladder trucks) found in NFPA Standard 1002, Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Apparatus Operator Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) skills regarding the driving and operation of ARFF apparatus found in NFPA Standard 1002, Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Instructor-I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of basic instructional skills found in NFPA Standard 1041, Standard for Fire Service Instructor
Fire	Fire Instructor-II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all instructional skills found in NFPA Standard 1041, Standard for Fire Service Instructor
Fire	Fire Instructor-III	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all instructional skills found in NFPA Standard 1041, Standard for Fire Service Instructor and meets the criteria required for Fire Instructor I and II

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Fire	Fire Officer-I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of certain officer skills found in NFPA Standard 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Officer-II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of certain officer skills found in NFPA Standard 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Officer-III	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of certain officer skills found in NFPA Standard 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Officer-IV	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of certain officer skills found in NFPA Standard 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Investigator	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of the skills found in NFPA Standard 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator. Though not required by state law, not being certified will hamper prosecution efforts
Fire	Incident Safety Officer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of the skills found in NFPA 1521, Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications
Fire	Health & Safety Officer I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of the skills found in NFPA 1521, Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Safety Compliance Officer-I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of basic skills found in NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector & Plans Examiner Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Safety Compliance Officer-II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills found in NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector & Plans Examiner Professional Qualifications
Fire	Fire Inspector	State Fire Marshal's Office	Required	Individual	Required by T.C.A. § 68-120-113 to legally enforce the fire code
Fire	Fire Inspector-I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of Fire Inspector I skills found in NFPA Standard 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner
Fire	Fire Inspector-II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of Fire Inspector II skills found in NFPA Standard 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner
Fire	Fire Inspector-III	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of Fire Inspector III skills found in NFPA Standard 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner

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Fire	Fire & Life Safety Educator-I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of basic skills found in NFPA 1035, Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator
Fire	Fire & Life Safety Educator-II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills found in NFPA 1035, Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator
Fire	Rescue Technician: Rope Rescue I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder is a Firefighter-I and has demonstrated mastery of all skills for rope rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Rescue Technician: Rope Rescue II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder is a Firefighter-II and has demonstrated mastery of all skills for rope rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Confined Space Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for confined space rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Trench Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for trench rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Structural Collapse Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for trench rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Vehicle Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for vehicle rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Surface Water Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for surface water rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Swiftwater Rescuer I	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of basic skills for swiftwater rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Swiftwater Rescuer II	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for swiftwater rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Dive Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for dive rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications

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Fire	Ice Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for ice rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Surf Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for surf rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Wilderness Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for wilderness rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Mine and Tunnel Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for mine and tunnel rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Cave Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for cave rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Machinery Rescuer	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of all skills for machinery rescue found in NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications
Fire	Hazardous Materials Incident Commander	Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education	Not Required/Best Practice	Individual	Certifies that the holder has demonstrated mastery of skills found in NFPA 472 Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents and NFPA 1561 Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety