Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board (TIESB)

Voluntary Certification Program

In the early 1970s, an attempt was made to require certification for all industrial firefighters. It found its way into a Texas legislative committee for action. Fortunately, it never left the committee. Officially formed in 1978, as a segment of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas (SFFMA), the Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board (TIESB) provides guidance for the Texas Industrial Fire Protection Program. Since formation, it has been working closely with the Texas Chemical Council and the National Petroleum Refiners Association reviewing various industries’ differences in training needs for all emergencies and loss prevention programs.

The TIESB Voluntary Certification program is designed to validate training programs and provide recognition for member companies and its emergency responders. As part of the TIESB mission to develop, administer and approve minimum training standards for emergency services for industrial facilities in the State of Texas; the newly developed TIESB Voluntary Certification Program is designed specifically address these areas. All training and education will be established and offered to ensure a level of competency commensurate with the expected duties. Training will be structured to ensure participants in the program meet and maintain the minimum job performance requirements outlined in the applicable NFPA standard or OSHA regulation. Training does not require certification, but must be consistent in terms of duration, quality, teaching and evaluation methodologies as that provided by ProBoard or IFSAC Accredited entities.

Valuable Benefits of the TIESB Voluntary Certification Program Include:

- Recognition of broad-based training in accordance with OSHA Regulation, NFPA Standards and Industry Best Practices
- Increase visibility of the Job Performance Requirements for emergency response personnel as specified in the related NFPA Standards
- Third party validation of TIESB members training
- Recognition of Certification-based training through accredited ProBoard or IFSAC providers
- Validation of non-certification based training through a rigorous skills and written testing
- Possible reduced insurance rates for companies who have certified emergency responders
- Validation of Member Companies fire protection programs and of its emergency responders capabilities
- Continues to solidify TIESBs passion of promoting legislation that would continue to make individual industrial facilities responsible for their own fire protection programs and to oppose bills seeking to do otherwise

As it relates to emergency response personnel, industrial facilities need the best. This includes the best education, training and validation of skill sets in the duties they will be expected to perform. Programs such as Voluntary Certification Program are necessary to ensure industrial facilities are able to keep its emergency response personnel are at the top of their game. This program is a value not only for the individual, but also for the company for whom they work. This is a critical link to protecting lives, company assets, the environment and communities.