

**CHIEF FIRE INVESTIGATOR  
STUDY GUIDE**

A written examination for the class of **CHIEF FIRE INVESTIGATOR** to be administered in **MONROE** on **NOVEMBER 19, 2014**, will consist of approximately **105** multiple-choice questions. The examination will test your knowledge in the following subject areas:

<b>SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM</b>
<p><b>FIRE ADMINISTRATION</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the principles required to effectively perform the administrative duties of the fire investigation division, including conducting research, planning, organizing, directing, inspecting, and evaluating the effectiveness of division operations; personnel management; and ordering and distributing supplies and equipment for the division.</p>	18.1%
<p><b>FIRE RECORDS, REPORTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>Knowledge of effective records-management practices, including preparation, content, control, format, and retention of records, and knowledge of the compilation, analysis, and organization of data into an effective written format in order to document division activities, to complete fire investigation reports, and to write official correspondence for the investigation division.</p>	11.0%
<p><b>FIRE HAZARDS</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the factors which constitute ordinary or special fire hazards, including materials, conditions, or negligence which may contribute to the start of a fire, or increase the extent or severity of a fire incident.</p>	10.5%
<p><b>FIRE INVESTIGATION</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the procedures for conducting a fire investigation and for determining the cause of a fire, including deciding what may be considered unusual at a fire scene; char and burn patterns; factors affecting fire spread; determination of the point of origin and probable cause of a fire; reconstruction of the fire scene; estimation of loss or damage caused by the fire; interview and interrogation procedures; law enforcement procedures related to fire investigations; and collection of evidence, including fire scene photography and preservation.</p>	25.0%

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE	APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM
<p><b>FIRE CHEMISTRY</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the chemistry of fire, including ignition temperatures and properties of flammable and combustible materials, flame and smoke spread, and products of combustion.</p>	10.0%
<p><b>JUDICIAL &amp; COURTROOM PROCEDURES/COURT TESTIMONY</b></p> <p>Knowledge of the judicial system and legal procedures as they relate to fire inspection or fire investigation; of general courtroom and trial procedures; and of recommended courtroom demeanor and testimony.</p>	5.0%
<p><b>PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Knowledge of accepted principles of public fire education needed to inform the public about fire safety during the performance of regular fire investigation duties, as well as assisting in evaluating the impact of the public fire education program.</p>	7.0%
<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, to maintain discipline; and to provide on-the-job training as needed.</p>	16.2%

**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.**

**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) PUBLICATIONS AND STANDARDS:**

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

**KIRK'S FIRE INVESTIGATION**, Brady, A Prentice-Hall Division, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 07632, 5th ed., 2002.

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

Essentials of Firefighting and Fire Department Operations, 5th ed., 2008.

Introduction to Fire Origin and Cause, 3rd ed., 2005.

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

**OTHER RECOMMENDED 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.**

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.