

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM: 06 x 82(Revised)

TO: All OSH Directors, Supervisors and Field Personnel

FROM: Dorothy Ison, Director of OSH

SUBJECT: Quality of Training for Firemen Under Section 1910.156(c)(3)

DATE: June 27, 2006

Purpose.

This memorandum clarifies the South Carolina Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health's position on Subarticle 6, Section 1910.156(c)(3) of our Rules and Regulations, regarding the quality of training for all fire brigade members and firefighters.

Background.

There has been confusion as to the quality of training that must be afforded to fire brigade members and firefighters. In a discussion with management of the South Carolina Fire Academy, it was learned that there are more than 700 academy certified fire training instructors in this State. The Fire Academy is one agency among others that offers an entry-level "basic interior firefighter" course of 80 hours taught by academy certified instructors. An additional discussion was held with Fire Academy personnel regarding requirements for private industrial fire brigades.

Interpretation.

The quality of training provided to all firemen covered under Section 1910.156 shall be the basic interior firefighter entry-level course of 80 hours for public sector firefighters (those firefighters who are members of any state, county, city paid or volunteer fire department). Also, a minimum of 24 hours, as determined by the needs of the hazards, the equipment and procedures used and the associated fire hazards existing at the workplace is required for private industrial fire brigade personnel (those persons who only fight interior fires at their place of employment) as offered by the South Carolina Fire Academy as the Industrial Interior Structural Firefighting courses, or equivalent courses developed and approved by a recognized fire training organization with at least the same training capabilities as the S.C. Fire Academy. The fire training organization conducting the training shall issue to each student successfully completing the required course a written certification of basic interior structural fire fighting capability. The certificates for public sector firefighters and private industrial fire brigade members should be worded to indicate which type of training was completed. In addition, all such training courses shall be taught by qualified training instructors who shall have certification by the S.C. Fire Academy as an NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I or by a similar recognized fire training school of at least the same training capabilities as the S.C. Fire

Academy or a person who has completed a training course that meets the NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I requirements. Training may be conducted at any convenient location, including individual fire stations, technical schools, plant sites, and the S.C. Fire Academy, if adequate live burn facilities are available.

Effective Date.

This memorandum is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.