633.34 **Firefighters; qualifications for employment.**—Any person applying for employment as a firefighter must:

1. Be a high school graduate or the equivalent, as the term may be determined by the division, and at least 18 years of age.
2. Neither have been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor directly related to the position of employment sought, nor have pled nolo contendere to any charge of a felony. If an applicant has been convicted of a felony, such applicant must be in compliance with s. 112.011(2)(b). If an applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor directly related to the position of employment sought, such applicant shall be excluded from employment for a period of 4 years after expiration of sentence. If the sentence is suspended or adjudication is withheld in a felony charge or in a misdemeanor directly related to the position or employment sought and a period of probation is imposed, the applicant must have been released from probation.
3. Submit a fingerprint card to the division with a current processing fee. The fingerprint card will be forwarded to the Department of Law Enforcement and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
4. Have a good moral character as determined by investigation under procedure established by the division.
5. Be in good physical condition as determined by a medical examination given by a physician, surgeon, or physician assistant licensed to practice in the state pursuant to chapter 458; an osteopathic physician, surgeon, or physician assistant licensed to practice in the state pursuant to chapter 459; or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed to practice in the state pursuant to chapter 464. Such examination may include, but need not be limited to, provisions of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1582. A medical examination evidencing good physical condition shall be submitted to the division, on a form as provided by rule, before an individual is eligible for admission into a firefighter training program as defined in s. 633.35.
6. Be a nonuser of tobacco or tobacco products for at least 1 year immediately preceding application, as evidenced by the sworn affidavit of the applicant.
633.35 Firefighter training and certification.—
(1) The division shall establish a firefighter training program of not less than 360 hours, administered by such agencies and institutions as it approves for the purpose of providing basic employment training for firefighters. Nothing herein shall require a public employer to pay the cost of such training.

(2) The division shall issue a certificate of compliance to any person satisfactorily complying with the training program established in subsection (1), who has successfully passed an examination as prescribed by the division, and who possesses the qualifications for employment in s. 633.34, except s. 633.34(5). No person may be employed as a regular or permanent firefighter by an employing agency, or by a private entity under contract with the state or any political subdivision of the state, including authorities and special districts, for a period of time in excess of 1 year from the date of initial employment until he or she has obtained such certificate of compliance. A person who does not hold a certificate of compliance and is employed under this section may not directly engage in hazardous operations, such as interior structural firefighting and hazardous-materials-incident mitigation, requiring the knowledge and skills taught in a training program established in subsection (1). However, a person who has served as a volunteer firefighter with the state or any political subdivision of the state, including authorities and special districts, who is then employed as a regular or permanent firefighter may function, during this period, in the same capacity in which he or she acted as a volunteer firefighter, provided that he or she has completed all training required by the volunteer organization.

(3) The division may issue a certificate to any person who has received basic employment training for firefighters in another state when the division has determined that such training was at least equivalent to that required by the division for approved firefighter education and training programs in this state and when such person has satisfactorily complied with all other requirements of this section. The division may also issue a special certificate to a person who is otherwise qualified under this section and who is employed as the administrative and command head of a fire/rescue/emergency services organization, based on the acknowledgment that such person is less likely to need physical dexterity and more likely to need advanced knowledge of firefighting and supervisory skills. The certificate is valid only while the person is serving in a position as an administrative and command head of a fire/rescue/emergency services organization.

(4) A person who fails an examination given under this section may retake the examination once within 6 months after the original examination date. An applicant who does not retake the examination within such time must take the Minimum Standards Course, pursuant to subsection (1), before being reexamined. The division may establish reasonable preregistration deadlines for such reexaminations.

(5) Pursuant to s. 590.02(1)(e), the division shall establish a structural fire training program of not less than 40 hours. The division shall issue to any person satisfactorily complying with this training program and who has successfully passed an examination as prescribed by the division and who has met the requirements of s. 590.02(1)(e) a Certificate of Forestry Firefighter.

(6) A certified forestry firefighter is entitled to the same rights, privileges, and benefits provided for by law as a certified firefighter.
633.351 Disciplinary action; firefighters; standards for revocation of certification.—
(1) The certification of a firefighter shall be revoked if evidence is found that the certification was improperly issued by the division or if evidence is found that the certification was issued on the basis of false, incorrect, incomplete, or misleading information.
(2) The certification of a firefighter who is convicted of a felony, or who is convicted of a misdemeanor relating to misleading or false statements, or who pleads nolo contendere to any charge of a felony shall be revoked until the firefighter complies with s. 112.011(2)(b). However, if sentence upon such felony or such misdemeanor charge is suspended or adjudication is withheld, the firefighter’s certification shall be revoked until she or he completes any probation.

633.352 Retention of firefighter certification.—Any certified firefighter who has not been active as a firefighter, or as a volunteer firefighter with an organized fire department, for a period of 3 years shall be required to retake the practical portion of the minimum standards state examination specified in rule 69A-37.056(6)(b), Florida Administrative Code, in order to maintain her or his certification as a firefighter; however, this requirement does not apply to state-certified firefighters who are certified and employed as full-time firesafety inspectors or firesafety instructors, regardless of the firefighter’s employment status. The 3-year period begins on the date the certificate of compliance is issued or upon termination of service with an organized fire department.

633.353 Falsification of qualifications.—Any person who willfully and knowingly falsifies the qualifications of a new employee to the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training of the division is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

112.011 Disqualification from licensing and public employment based on criminal conviction.—
(2)(b) An applicant for employment with any fire department who has a prior felony conviction shall be excluded from employment for a period of 4 years after expiration of sentence or final release by the Parole Commission unless the applicant, before the expiration of the 4-year period, has received a full pardon or has had his or her civil rights restored.