



Municipal Technical Advisory Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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State Recognition-Fire Department

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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State Recognition-Fire Department

Reference Number: MTAS-240

State Recognition and Local Approval Required

Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-102-301, *et seq.*, require state recognition before a firefighting organization may operate or raise funds as a fire department. The Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office enforces this law and sets standards and qualifications for becoming and remaining a fire department. Certificates of recognition are valid for three years, after which the fire department must apply for a renewal. T.C.A. § 68-102-306 provides that no new fire department may be created or recognized without the approval of the local governing body. This law must not be confused with the Firefighter minimum training law where some counties were exempted from the requirements; there are no exceptions and/or exemptions to this law. Any person violating the law is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine only under T.C.A. § 68-102-307.

The rules for fire department recognition may be found at <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/0780/0780-02/0780-02-20.20150824.pdf> [1]

The application for Fire Department Recognition may be found at https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/forms/Initial_FD_Recognition_-_IN-1479.pdf [2]

The application for Fire Department Recognition Renewal may be found at https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/forms/FD_Recognition_Renewal_-_IN-1480.pdf [3]

Links:

[1] <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/0780/0780-02/0780-02-20.20150824.pdf>

[2] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/forms/Initial_FD_Recognition_-_IN-1479.pdf

[3] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/forms/FD_Recognition_Renewal_-_IN-1480.pdf

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