



**MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION**  
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August 14, 2020

To: Minnesota Fire Service  
Re: FY21 MBFTE Training Allocation Information

The MN Board of Firefighter Training and Education met on August 12, 2020 to determine the appropriation of training funds available to the Minnesota fire service for Fiscal Year 21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). Together with our base budget, a 1-time appropriation from the Fire Safety Account, and a carryover from FY20, the MBFTE has nearly \$8 million in training funds available for the Minnesota fire service this fiscal year.

The MBFTE will soon be mailing your department's reimbursement award letters (e-mail and hard copies), but I wanted to share with you the overall amounts of funding for FY21 that was recently approved by the board:

- \$4,007,400 (\$200 per firefighter) in training reimbursement awards. There will be a re-distribution of any remaining funds after the **July 15, 2021 deadline** for submitting reimbursement requests, as we cannot carryover funds into the next fiscal biennium.
  - In a continued partnership with the MBFTE, Sourcewell (formerly NJPA) will be providing the 49 fire departments within their Region 5 (counties of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena) an additional \$205 per firefighter in training reimbursement in FY21.
- \$2,810,560 to provide “Basic Firefighter Training” with certification(s).
  - Students can merely take Firefighter 1, or can take the entire NFPA 1001 course.
  - Students must complete the course and pass the certification test(s) by the end of FY22 (two fiscal years) to be eligible for reimbursement. Fire departments will not be reimbursed out of this separate funding by the MBFTE until the student has met this criteria.
- 125 Live Burns in Acquired Structures and/or fixed facilities training reimbursements at a maximum rate of \$1,500 each.
- \$59,250 in Conferences and Seminars grants for 13 different projects (listed on the MBFTE's website).
- \$40,568 to continue offering the MBFTE's Fire Service Leadership Development course in FY21.
- \$84,000 for Fire Instructor training with certification for 160 students in FY21.
- \$99,200 for Fire Officer training with certification for 160 students in FY21.
- \$127,200 for Fire Apparatus Operator training with certification for 150 students in FY21.
- \$48,000 to provide National level speakers deliveries via virtual symposiums.

The board also approved a \$130,000 contract expenditure in FY21 with Target Solutions Learning, LLC to offer an online training and records management system **at no cost** to the MN fire service. The MBFTE and Target Solutions will begin onboarding fire departments in the fall of 2020 who are interested in participating and are not currently using the Target Solutions platform. This statewide offering of an online training and records management system for fire departments is in response to the recommendations found in the 2017 Firefighter Training Study.

COVID-19 has created many challenges, particularly in the area of firefighter training, and conducting training in a safe environment has now become even more critical because of this pandemic. Rest assured that training can still be done – and should be done – to keep your firefighter’s skills and abilities at their highest levels. Please work with the training providers and training academies in your area to help ensure that training is being done, and done safely.

I ask that each of us (training providers, firefighters, fire service organizations, and fire service leaders) take on the responsibility of ensuring that the efforts made by many to make these training funds available to your department are not made in vain by using them. Educate your town clerks, treasurers, and city finance people and administrators on the simple process of how to get reimbursed by the MBFTE, and follow-up with those who are responsible for submitting your reimbursement requests before the **July 15, 2021 deadline** and to confirm that you have received your payments.

Do the right thing for the communities you serve by making sure your firefighters are trained to the best of their abilities. Please encourage your neighboring fire departments to use their funding by training together with your department and others.

Congratulations on your FY21 training reimbursement awards for your department!

As always, feel free to contact the MBFTE with any questions, comments, or concerns that you may have.

Yours in the fire service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Flaherty".

Steve Flaherty, Executive Director

*“The vision of the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education is to support every firefighter’s training and preparation to perform at their highest level in service to their communities.”*