



California Fire Technology Directors Association

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October 28, 2002

Chief Dave Ebert
CDF/State Fire Training
1131 "S" Street
Sacramento CA 94244

Chief Ebert,

At the September 19 2002 meeting of the California Fire Technology Directors Association (CFTDA) in Riverside, California, Chief Art Cota briefed the Association on proposed changes to the Driver/Operator 1A certification curriculum. Chief Cota stated that an item of concern among the re-write committee is whether or not a valid class B driver's license or learners permit should be required *prior* to attending the D/O1A class and he asked for input.

After discussing the issue, a consensus among the college representatives was reached. Because many departments use the DO1A course as a training tool for new drivers, the association believes that it is not appropriate to require a class B driver's license prior to attending the class.

However, it is the unanimous decision of CFTDA members that a class B driver's license **learners permit** should be a pre-requisite for D/O1A. The learner's permit can be obtained by the student without the knowledge, skills and abilities that are taught in the D/O1A course, therefore this requirement would not be an unreasonable burden for the students. The association believes that this requirement would ensure the D/O1A students are better prepared for success in the course. In addition, the possession of a class B learner's permit helps mitigate college liability from a risk management perspective.

If I can provide any further information to your office regarding this issue, please contact me.

Rick Vogt
Fire Technology Director
Riverside Community College