

***Prior scheduling is not necessary to participate in a practice session, but you must be on time. You may attend as many practice sessions as you like. You should be seated at Fire Administration (2008 East Club Blvd. Durham) at the scheduled start time.***

### **Written Test-Taking Tips**

This brief session will offer suggestions that you may find helpful for test taking. Calculators are NOT permitted for our tests. Applicants will fall into one of the two categories listed below:

Certified Firefighter Applicants – This test is for applicants who already have the required FIRE certifications, two years of fire experience, or have graduated from an approved fire academy. Certified firefighter applicants will take a job knowledge test from the 6th Edition of IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting. The test will last approximately 2 hours. Certified applicants who score 70 or higher may be scheduled to interview. Certified applicants who do not pass the job knowledge test with a minimum score of 70 are permitted to take the entry level test, but if chosen for hire, those applicants will be required to attend a full academy. If you have any doubts about passing the IFSTA test, you will need to decide whether or not you will want to test as an entry level firefighter. We are happy to test you the same day or any day that we are offering testing during our test week. The use of a calculator is not permitted for our tests, so we recommend that you brush up on calculating percentages and/or other basic math functions if you're a bit rusty! *It's better to submit your test with a good score and 1 minute left on the timer than to submit your test in 30 minutes with an average score! One point could be the difference in getting an interview.*

Entry Level and Advanced-EMT Applicants – For all applicants not considered “Certified Firefighters.” This test is for ALL entry level applicants and all applicants who are already A-EMTs. The 2-hour test is multiple choice test and is based on reading comprehension, math, maps, writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation), and human relations. *It's better to submit your test with a good score and 1 minute left on the timer than to submit your test in 30 minutes with an average score! One point could be the difference in getting an interview.*

Unless you are extremely comfortable with test taking, we encourage our entry level applicants to purchase a practice “CEB Candidate Orientation

Guide” (NOT the CEB/PST) by clicking the following link: <http://www.fpsi.com/fire-candidate-orientation-guides/>. This practice will assist in preparing you for the actual test that you will take on your selected testing date. We do not receive any profit from the sale of this guide. If you would prefer free videos that may help you “brush up” on your skills, the following Khan Academy links may be helpful: [finding a percentage](#), [percentage word problems](#), [division and multiplication problems](#), and [comma usage](#).

You are permitted to work problems in your book during the test, but the use of a calculator is not permitted for our tests, so we recommend that you brush up on calculating percentages and/or other basic math functions if you're a bit rusty!