

NFPA®

1051

Standard for
Wildland Firefighting Personnel
Professional Qualifications

2020



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NFPA® 1051

Standard for

Wildland Firefighting Personnel Professional Qualifications

2020 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1051, *Standard for Wildland Firefighting Personnel Professional Qualifications*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Wildland Fire Management and released by the Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications. It was issued by the Standards Council on August 22, 2019, with an effective date of September 11, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1051 was approved as an American National Standard on September 11, 2019.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1051

In 1972, the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations (JCNFSO) created the National Professional Qualifications Board for the Fire Service (NPQB) to facilitate the development of nationally applicable performance standards for uniformed fire service personnel. On December 14, 1972, the Board established four technical committees to develop those standards using the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards-making system. The initial committees addressed the following career areas: fire fighter, fire officer, fire service instructor, and fire inspector and investigator.

The original concept of the professional qualification standards as directed by the JCNFSO and the NPQB was to develop an interrelated set of performance standards specifically for the fire service. The various levels of achievement in the standards were to build upon each other within a strictly defined career ladder. In the late 1980s, revisions of the standards recognized that the documents should stand on their own merit in terms of job performance requirements (JPRs) for a given field. Accordingly, the strict career ladder concept was abandoned, except for the progression from fire fighter to fire officer. The later revisions, therefore, facilitated the use of the documents by other than the uniformed fire services.

In 1990, responsibility for appointment of Professional Qualifications committees and for development of the Professional Qualifications Standards was assumed by NFPA. The Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications Standards, appointed by the NFPA Standards Council in 1990, assumed responsibility for coordinating the requirements of all the Professional Qualifications documents. One of the first actions of the technical correlating committee was to recommend that the Standards Council approve a proposed project to develop professional qualifications requirements for wildfire suppression personnel. That recommendation was approved, and the Technical Committee on Wildfire Suppression Professional Qualifications was appointed in 1991. The committee met regularly between 1991 and 1994. A job task analysis was conducted, and the resulting information was used to develop the JPRs contained in the first edition, issued in 1995, of NFPA 1051, *Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*. Throughout the process, liaison was maintained with national and state-level organizations, including the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, to ensure that the document would be accurate and would correlate with work that those groups were sponsoring simultaneously.

The intent of the technical committee was to develop clear and concise JPRs that can be used to determine that an individual, when measured to the standard, possesses the skills and knowledge to perform as a wildland fire fighter. The committee further contended that those JPRs are applicable to all agencies that respond to wildland fires.

In the 2002 edition of this standard, the technical committee changed the purpose and scope statements and completely revised the document. NFPA 1051 now addressed the minimum JPRs for both suppression and pre-suppression activities. The committee removed the chapters for Wildland Fire Fighter III and Wildland Fire Fighter IV and added chapters for Wildland Fire Officer I and

Wildland Fire Officer II. The committee added chapters for Wildland/Urban Interface Coordinator and Wildland/Urban Interface Protection Specialist.

The committee also made changes in the document to bring it into conformance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

For the 2007 edition, the technical committee made changes to provide consistency within the Professional Qualifications project as directed by the technical correlating committee and also updated reference documents to current titles and dates.

For the 2012 edition, the minimum job performance requirements necessary to perform the duties as a wildland fire fighter and fire officer were updated. The technical committee also further developed the Wildland Fire Fighter I requisite knowledge and skills requirements, including patrolling a fire area, establishing command presence, communicating with supervisors and other crews, providing logistics, deploying resources, completing operations, and developing an initial report. In addition, the technical committee added requisite knowledge and skills requirements for evaluating the need and location for incident facilities to Wildland Fire Officer II.

As part of the revision process for the 2016 edition, the technical committee completed a job task analysis. The technical committee clarified text related to power tools and equipment, giving the opportunity for the authority having jurisdiction to determine the appropriate tools rather than stipulating specific tools. The technical committee also reviewed and updated the references and source documents to align with the National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) and their curriculum and training materials.

For the 2020 edition, the technical committee has aligned task sections for each position to show a relational progression. All JPRS have been reviewed for accuracy and relevancy. Two new annexes have been added: Annex C, Overview of the Job Performance Requirements, a quick reference guide showing all JPRS; and Annex D, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, recognizing the NFFF “16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives.” Additional updates include recognizing task books of the National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG).

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