NFPA®

1006

Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications

2021

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NFPA® 1006

Standard for

Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications

2021 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications, released by the Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications, and acted on by the NFPA membership during the 2020 NFPA Technical Meeting held June 8–29. It was issued by the Standards Council on August 11, 2020, with an effective date of August 31, 2020, and supersedes all previous editions.

This document has been amended by one or more Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) and/or Errata. See "Codes & Standards" at www.nfpa.org for more information.

This edition of NFPA 1006 was approved as an American National Standard on August 31, 2020.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1006

In 1994, the NFPA Standards Council, after receipt of a request for the development of a standard for the professional qualifications of rescue technicians, approved the establishment of a technical committee on Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications under the Professional Qualifications project. The committee developed the first edition of NFPA 1006, *Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications*, which established general job performance requirements (JPRs) for a rescue technician, as well as specific job performance requirements for special rescue operations. These performance requirements included rope rescue, surface water rescue, vehicle and machinery rescue, confined space rescue, structural collapse rescue, and trench rescue.

For the 2003 edition of NFPA 1006, all the chapters were reviewed and changes were made to comply with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. Three new chapters were added to the document: Subterranean Rescue, Dive Rescue, and Wilderness Rescue.

For the 2008 edition of NFPA 1006, the document was updated and chapters for Swiftwater Rescue, Ice Rescue, and Surf Rescue were added. The Subterranean Rescue chapter was broken into two chapters: one on Mine and Tunnel Rescue and the other on Cave Rescue.

Each chapter in the document was broken into two levels, Level I and Level II, and the document was retitled *Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications*. Additional language was added to clarify the use of the standard.

The 2013 edition of NFPA 1006 was updated to recognize passive power sources and new and emerging technologies as challenges that create hazards to the technical rescuer. The goals for meeting these challenges and hazards were as follows:

(1) To isolate and manage potentially harmful energy sources so that all hazards are identified, systems are managed, system use is evaluated, and hazards to rescue personnel are minimized
(2) To identify types of energy sources, isolate system methods, recognize specialized features, ensure availability of proper tools and equipment, and ensure that operations support the tactical objective

Because of the new power sources in automobiles, Chapter 10 of the 2008 edition, Vehicle and Machinery Rescue, was separated into two chapters: Chapter 10, Vehicle Rescue, and Chapter 19, Machinery Rescue.

The simple-rope mechanical advantage system minimum travel distance for loads was modified based on the response area and the discipline-specific application. The distance traveled should reflect a typical distance experienced by a rescuer operating the equipment and performing the task.

Because of the nature and specific knowledge and skills required during a technical rescue incident, language was included in Chapter 1, Administration, that mandates a rescuer to remain current and "demonstrate competency on an annual basis."

The prerequisite knowledge and skills found in Chapter 5 were clarified based on discipline-specific job performance requirements found in Chapters 6 through 19. The intent was to address all the applicable areas of Chapter 5 unless otherwise exempted in the discipline-specific chapters. In other words, each JPR should be addressed in a manner consistent with the discipline.

In Chapter 6, Rope Rescue, a specific reference to *highline system* was changed to *operation of a rope system* to broaden the definition to include other methods for moving a load horizontally.

Chapter 17, Mine and Tunnel Rescue, was modified and restructured to include Level I and Level II so that it complements the other disciplines within the document.

Annex material, including dive charts, air compression tables, and dive site diagrams, was upgraded. Annex E, Marking Systems, was updated to reflect similar references found in NFPA 1670, *Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents*.

In the 2017 edition, rescuer training levels were changed from Level I and II to Awareness, Operations, and Technician, which better align with NFPA 1670. JPRs were refined for all the positions within the scope of the standard. Chapters on Floodwater, Animal, Tower, Helicopter, and Watercraft Rescue were added. Definitions were updated and several were added to create consistency with NFPA 1670. In addition, the title of the standard was revised to be inclusive of all personnel associated with technical rescue.

For the 2021 edition, the committee reviewed the entire document to make necessary adjustments to the requirements so that they aligned better with NFPA 1670, as well as with other requirements in the document. The committee expanded on the vehicle rescue discipline by including a new chapter on common passenger vehicles and by renaming the existing *vehicle rescue* to *heavy vehicle rescue* given the vast differences between the two types of vehicles. The committee made numerous changes throughout the document to provide clarity to areas that previously might have been confusing, to strengthen the requirements to be qualified, and to take into account commonly accepted practices and include them in the requirements.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for the management of the NFPA Professional Qualifications Project and documents related to professional qualifications for fire service, public safety, and related personnel.

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Committee Scope: This committee shall have the primary responsibility for documents on professional qualifications for fire service and related personnel who will perform rescue operations.

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