

NFPA®

1026

Standard for Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications

2018



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NFPA® 1026

Standard for

Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications

2018 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1026, *Standard for Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications and released by the Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 10, 2017, with an effective date of November 30, 2017, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1026 was approved as an American National Standard on November 30, 2017.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1026

In 1972, the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations (JCNFSO) created the National Professional Qualifications Board (NPQB) for the Fire Service 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 upon their own merit in terms of job performance requirements 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.

On August 1, 2000, a letter was sent to the NFPA Standards Council from the National Fire Service Incident Management System Consortium requesting that they explore the possibility of developing a professional qualifications standard for fire service personnel assigned to perform specific roles within an incident management system. This information was forwarded to the Professional Qualifications Correlating Committee to submit a recommendation on the request.

The Technical Correlating Committee met in November 2001 with the representative from the National Fire Service Incident Management System Consortium to discuss the perceived need for the project. They established an Incident Management System Task Group to meet in San Diego in February 2002 to solicit input on the need for and scope of a project.

This task group reported that there was significant interest in achieving some form of credentialing or certifications on the part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. This report was sent to the NFPA Standards Council. The Standards Council approved this new project at their July 2003 meeting. The scope of the 2009 edition of this document was to identify the minimum job performance requirements for personnel performing roles within an all-hazard incident management system.

It was the intent of the committee that individuals meeting this standard for a specific position would also meet the NIMS ICS Core Competencies for that position, and that individuals meeting the NIMS ICS Core Competencies for a specific position would also meet the requirement of this standard for that position.

As a result of the technical committee's work in 2009 and because there were no changes that occurred with any of the NIMS-specific positions, the technical committee only made minor changes to editorial issues and reference edition date changes in the 2014 edition. The technical committee considered revisions to safety officer and public information officer, but recognized that both of these positions were specific to incident management and not necessarily for local-level daily operations found in NFPA 1521 and NFPA 1035, respectively.

The technical committee's work on the 2018 edition resulted in minor changes to the document. The committee updated extracts and definitions for the revised document. The committee evaluated the job performance requirements for the positions identified in the document.

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Kissimmee, FL [M]

Rep. International Fire Service Training Association

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Rep. NFPA Fire Service Section

Gordon Descutner, Alaska DPS Fire Standards Council, AK [E]
Rep. Alaska Fire Standards Council

Angus Maclean Duff, Consolidated Fire District 2, KS [U]

Richard A. Dunn, SC State Firefighters' Association, SC [E]

Richard T. Dunton, Unified/ Rochester/Milton Fire Departments, NH [E]

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Rep. JOIFF-International Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management

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Douglas R. Goodings, Blue River Community College, MO [U]

Scott M. Gorgon, North Las Vegas Fire Department, NV [L]
Rep. International Association of Fire Fighters

R. Kirk Hankins, Fire Consulting & Case Review International, Inc., MO [U]

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Richard A. Mason, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, NH [SE]

Rep. National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation

Bill Slosson, Washington State Patrol, WA [E]

Philip C. Stittleburg, La Farge Fire Department, WI [L]
Rep. National Volunteer Fire Council

Christopher A. Totten, U.S. Marine Corps, TX [E]

Tracie M. Young-Brungard, Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner, PA [E]

Rep. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress

Dalan Lee Zartman, Rescue Methods, OH [U]

Alternates

Thomas W. Aurnhammer, Los Pinos Fire District, CO [U]
(Alt. to R. Kirk Hankins)

Wayne Bailey, North Carolina Fire & Rescue Commission, NC [E]
(Alt. to Tracie M. Young-Brungard)

David W. Lewis, National Volunteer Fire Council, MD [L]
(Alt. to Philip C. Stittleburg)

Frederick W. Piechota, Jr., National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, MA [E]
(Alt. to Brian R. Brauer)

Nonvoting

Stephen P. Austin, Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, DE [L]
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Alan W. Conkle, Ohio Association of Emergency Vehicle Technicians (OAEVT), OH [M]
Rep. TC on Emergency Vehicle Mechanic Technicians Professional Qualifications

John S. Cunningham, Nova Scotia Firefighters School, Canada [U]
Rep. TC on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

Jay Dornseif, III, Priority Dispatch Corporation, UT [M]
Rep. TC on Public Safety Telecommunicator Professional Qualifications

Dave E. Hanneman, Idaho Falls Fire Department, ID [U]
Rep. TC on Incident Management Professional Qualifications

Edward M. Hawthorne, Shell Oil Company, TX [U]
Rep. TC on Industrial Fire Brigades Professional Qualifications

Ronald L. Hopkins, TRACE Fire Protection & Safety Consultant, Ltd., KY [SE]
Rep.

Robert Fash, NFPA Staff Liaison

Randy J. Krause, Port of Seattle Fire Department, WA [E]
Rep. TC on Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health

Michael S. Mayers, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue, SC [U]
Rep. TC on Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications

Gregory G. Noll, Hildebrand & Noll Associates Inc., PA [SE]
Rep. TC on Hazardous Materials Response Personnel

Lawrence L. Preston, Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, MD [E]
Rep. TC on Fire Officer Professional Qualifications

Jim Stumpf, Organizational Quality Associates, ID [SE]
Rep. TC on Wildfire Suppression Professional Qualifications

Nancy J. Trench, Fire Protection Publications, OK [M]
Rep. TC on Public Fire Educator Professional Qualifications

George A. Wendt, Travelers Insurance Company, NJ [I]
Rep. TC on Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications

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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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Connecticut Fire Academy, CT [E]

Longin James Kloc, Tyco/Scott Safety, NC [M]
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Brian R. Usher, City of Largo, FL [U]
Rep. American Public Works Association
Michael A. Wieder, Fire Protection Publications, OK [M]
Rep. International Fire Service Training Association

Alternates

Steven Berube, New York City Fire Department, NY [U]
(Alt. to James Kane)
Michael E. Cherry, U.S. Forest Service, DC [E]
(Alt. to Gordon M. Sachs)
Brian Fennessy, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, CA [U]
(Voting Alternate)

Troy German, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, OK [M]
(Alt. to Michael A. Wieder)
Bradley Hubbard, Shell Oil Company, LA [U]
(Alt. to Edward M. Hawthorne)
David G. Zwolak, U.S. Department of Labor, DC [E]
(Voting Alternate)

Robert Fash, NFPA Staff Liaison

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Committee Scope: This committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on professional qualifications required of personnel performing roles within an all hazard incident management system.

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