

# NFPA 1002

## Standard on Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications

### 2003 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101  
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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**NFPA 1002**  
**Standard on**  
**Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications**  
**2003 Edition**

This edition of NFPA 1002, *Standard on Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, released by the Technical Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications, and acted on by NFPA at its May Association Technical Meeting held May 18–21, 2003, in Dallas, TX. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 18, 2003, with an effective date of August 7, 2003, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1002 was approved as an American National Standard on July 18, 2003.

**Origin and Development of NFPA 1002**

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 Technical Committee on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications met regularly after the adoption of NFPA 1001 to produce the first edition of this document, which was adopted by the NFPA in 1976. NFPA 1002 was the second in the series of fire fighter professional qualifications standards.

Additional editions were adopted and issued by the NFPA under the auspices of the NPQB in 1982 and 1988.

The original concept of the professional qualifications standards, as directed by the JCNFSO and the NPQB, was to develop an interrelated set of performance standards specifically for the uniformed 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 revised, except for the progression from fire fighter to fire officer, in order to allow civilian entry into many of the fields. These revisions facilitated the use of the documents by other than the uniformed fire services.

In 1990, responsibility for the appointment of professional qualifications committees and the development of the professional qualifications standards were assumed by the NFPA. The Professional Qualifications Correlating Committee, appointed by the NFPA Standards Council in 1990, assumed responsibility for coordinating the requirements of all of the professional qualifications documents.

The JPR format of this document is consistent with the other standards in the professional qualifications project. Each JPR consists of the task to be performed; the tools, equipment, or materials that must be provided to successfully complete the task; evaluation parameters and/or performance outcomes; and lists of requisite knowledge and skills one must have to be able to perform the task. The intent of the Technical Committee on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications is to provide clear and concise job performance requirements that can be used to determine that an individual, when measured to the standard, possesses the skills and knowledge to perform as a fire fighter.

In the 2003 edition of the document, the technical committee made changes to bring it into conformance with the new NFPA *Manual of Style* and several small additions.

**In Memoriam, September 11, 2001**

We pay tribute to the 343 members of FDNY who gave their lives to save civilian victims on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center. They are true American heroes in death, but they were also American heroes in life. We will keep them in our memory and in our hearts. They are the embodiment of courage, bravery, and dedication. May they rest in peace.

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*This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.*

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

**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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*This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.*

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**Committee Scope:** This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on professional competence required of fire fighters.

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**NFPA 1002****Standard on****Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator  
Professional Qualifications****2003 Edition**

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Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex C.

**Chapter 1 Administration**

**1.1 Scope.** This standard shall identify the minimum job performance requirements for fire fighters who drive and operate fire apparatus, in both emergency and nonemergency situations.

**1.2\* Purpose.** The purpose of this standard shall be to specify the minimum job performance requirements for service as a fire department emergency vehicle driver, pump operator, aerial operator, tiller operator, wildland apparatus operator, aircraft rescue and fire-fighting apparatus operator, and mobile water supply apparatus operator.

**1.3 Exceeding Minimum Requirements.** It is not the intent of this standard to restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding these minimum requirements.

**1.4 General.**

**1.4.1** The fire department vehicle driver/operators shall be licensed to drive all vehicles they are expected to operate.

**1.4.2\*** The fire department driver/operator shall be subject to periodic medical evaluation, as required by NFPA 1500, Section 10.1, Medical Requirements, to determine that the

driver/operator is medically fit to perform the duties of a fire department vehicle driver/operator.

**1.4.3\*** All driver/operators who drive fire apparatus shall meet the objectives of Chapter 4 for each type of apparatus they will be expected to operate.

**1.4.4** The fire apparatus driver who is required to operate an apparatus equipped with an attack or fire pump shall meet the requirements of Chapter 5.

**1.4.5** The fire apparatus driver who is required to operate an apparatus equipped with an aerial device shall meet the requirements of Chapter 6.

**1.4.6** The fire apparatus driver who is required to function in the tiller position shall meet the requirements of Chapter 7.

**1.4.7** The fire apparatus driver who is required to operate wildland fire apparatus shall meet the requirements of Chapter 8.

**1.4.8** The fire apparatus driver who is required to operate aircraft rescue and fire-fighting apparatus shall meet the requirements of Chapter 9.

**1.4.9** The mobile water supply apparatus driver shall meet the requirements of Chapter 10.

**1.4.10\*** Job performance requirements defined by this standard shall be evaluated by individuals approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

**1.4.11** The job performance requirements need not be mastered in the order in which they appear. The local, state/provincial, or federal training programs shall establish the instructional priority and the training program content to prepare individuals to meet the job performance requirements of this standard.

**1.4.12** The job performance requirements of Chapters 4 through 10 shall be performed utilizing vehicles of similar weight, wheelbase, and function as those expected to be operated in the performance of the driver/operator's normal duties.

**1.4.13\*** Fire apparatus drivers who are expected to operate vehicles off-road shall meet the requirements of 8.1.2, in addition to the applicable requirements of Chapters 4 through 7.

**Chapter 2 Referenced Publications**

**2.1 General.** The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

**2.2 NFPA Publications.** National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 13D, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 13E, *Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems*, 2000 edition.

NFPA 13R, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 14, *Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems*, 2003 edition.

NFPA 1001, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 1003, *Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, 2000 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 1901, *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus*, 2003 edition.

## 2.3 Other Publications. (Reserved)

## Chapter 3 Definitions

**3.1\* General.** The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard. Where terms are not included, common usage of the terms shall apply.

### 3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

**3.2.1\* Approved.** Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

**3.2.2\* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).** An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

**3.2.3 Shall.** Indicates a mandatory requirement.

**3.2.4 Standard.** A document, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word “shall” to indicate requirements and which is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Nonmandatory provisions shall be located in an appendix or annex, footnote, or fine-print note and are not to be considered a part of the requirements of a standard.

### 3.3 General Definitions.

**3.3.1 Aerial Apparatus.** A piece of fire apparatus with a permanently mounted, power-operated elevating device, including aerial ladders, aerial ladder platforms, telescoping aerial platforms, articulating aerial platforms, and elevating water delivery systems.

**3.3.2 Aerial Device.** An aerial ladder, elevating platform, aerial ladder platform, or water tower that is designed to position personnel, handle materials, provide egress, and discharge water.

**3.3.3 Aerial Operator.** The fire apparatus driver who has met the requirements of Chapter 6 for the operation of apparatus equipped with aerial devices.

**3.3.4 Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting (ARFF) Vehicle.** A vehicle intended to carry rescue and fire-fighting equipment for rescuing occupants and combating fires in aircraft at, or in the vicinity of, an airport.

**3.3.5 Angle of Approach.** The smallest angle made between the road surface and a line drawn from the front point of ground contact of the front tire to any projection of the apparatus in front of the front axle.

**3.3.6 Angle of Departure.** The smallest angle made between the road surface and the line drawn from the rear point of ground contact of the rear tire to any projection of the apparatus behind the rear axle.

**3.3.7 Fire Apparatus.** A fire department emergency vehicle used for rescue, fire suppression, or other specialized functions. [1710:3.3]

**3.3.8 Fire Apparatus Driver.** The fire fighter who has met the requirements defined in Chapter 4.

**3.3.9 Fire Department.** An organization providing rescue, fire suppression, and related activities, including any public, governmental, private, industrial, or military organization engaging in this type of activity.

**3.3.10 Fire Department Pumper.** A piece of fire apparatus with a permanently mounted fire pump that has a rated discharge capacity of 750 gpm (2850 L/min) or greater as defined in NFPA 1901.

**3.3.11 Fire Department Vehicle.** Any vehicle, including fire apparatus, operated by a fire department.

**3.3.12 Fire Pump.** A water pump with a rated capacity of 1000 L/min (250 gpm) or greater at 1000 kPa (150 psi) net pump pressure that is mounted on a fire apparatus and used for fire fighting. [1901:3.3]

**3.3.13 Foam System.** A system provided on fire apparatus for the delivery of a proportioned foam and water mixture for use in fire extinguishment. The system includes a concentrate tank, a method for removing the concentrate from the tank, a foam-liquid proportioning system, and a method (e.g., hand lines or fixed turret nozzles) of delivering the proportioned foam to the fire.

**3.3.14 Job Performance Requirement.** A statement that describes a specific job task, lists the items necessary to complete the task, and defines measurable or observable outcomes and evaluation areas for the specific task. [1000:3.3]

**3.3.15 Liquid Surge.** The force imposed upon a fire apparatus by the contents of a partially filled water or foam concentrate tank when the vehicle is accelerated, decelerated, or turned.

**3.3.16 Mobile Water Supply Apparatus (Tanker, Tender).** A vehicle designed primarily for transporting (pickup, transporting, and delivering) water to fire emergency scenes to be applied by other vehicles or pumping equipment. [1901:3.3]

**3.3.17 Off-Road Use.** Use of fire department vehicles in areas where there is a need to traverse steep terrain or to cross natural hazards on or protruding from the ground.

**3.3.18 Pump Operator.** The fire apparatus driver/operator who has met the requirements of Chapter 5 for the operation of apparatus equipped with an attack or fire pump.

**3.3.19 Pumping System.** A pump, the piping, and associated devices mounted permanently on a piece of fire apparatus for the purpose of delivering a fire stream.

**3.3.20 Requisite Knowledge.** Fundamental knowledge one must have in order to perform a specific task. [1031:3.3]

**3.3.21 Requisite Skills.** The essential skills one must have in order to perform a specific task. [1031:3.3]

**3.3.22 Task.** A specific job behavior or activity.

**3.3.23 Tiller Aerial Apparatus.** A tractor-trailer aerial apparatus with a steering wheel connected to the rear axle for maneuvering the rear portion of the apparatus.

**3.3.24 Tiller Operator.** The fire apparatus driver/operator who has met the requirements of Chapter 7.