

NFPA® 1003

Standard for
Airport Fire Fighter
Professional
Qualifications

2010 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA® 1003

Standard for

Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

2010 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1003, *Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications and released by the Technical Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications. It was issued by the Standards Council on October 27, 2009, with an effective date of December 5, 2009, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1003 was approved as an American National Standard on December 5, 2009.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1003

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 Committee on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications met regularly from 1976 to 1978 to produce the first edition of this document. Adopted by the Association in 1978, NFPA 1003 was the third in the series of fire fighter professional qualifications standards.

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

The intent of the technical committee was to develop 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 an airport fire fighter. The committee further contends that these job performance requirements can be used in any fire department in any city, town, or private organization throughout North America.

Changes in the standard for the 2005 edition included the requirement that for certification as an airport fire fighter, the candidate meet the requirements for Fire Fighter II defined in NFPA 1001, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*.

The 2005 edition also included changes to bring the standard into conformance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. The Technical Committee would like to thank the members of the Airport Fire Fighter Task Group who provided them with valuable time and expertise in the development of this document. These individuals are Hugh Pike, Chair; Kenneth Gilliam; Jim Goodbread; Don Hilderbrand; Jim Hotell; Bob Lindstrom; Greg Ranard; and Gary Schott.

For the 2010 edition, a job-task analysis was completed by the committee to ensure that all the requirements were still relevant given the ever-changing world of ARFF. In addition, the committee, as directed by the Technical Correlating Committee, replaced the term *certified* with the term *qualified*. The committee has also added a skills maintenance requirement for ARFF personnel. The most significant change in this edition is the elimination of proximity personal protective equipment (PrPPE) from the minimum requirements. By setting the minimum at PrPPE, the standard had eliminated the ability of the AHJ to decide, given varying situations, whether PPE was acceptable versus PrPPE. The committee also removed Annex B from the document because it determined that the annex would be better served in a document that was relevant to training, which this standard is not.



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

