

NFPA® 1033

Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator

2009 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA® 1033

Standard for

Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator

2009 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1033, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications and released by the Technical Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications. It was issued by the Standards Council on May 30, 2008, with an effective date of July 18, 2008, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1033 was approved as an American National Standard on July 18, 2008.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1033

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 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 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. The Committee on Fire Inspector and Investigator Professional Qualifications met and produced the first edition of NFPA 1031, *Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, and Fire Prevention Education Officer*. This document was adopted by the NFPA in May of 1977.

In 1986, the joint council directed the committee to develop separate documents for each of the job functions the original document addressed. This direction was coupled with the decision to remove the job of fire investigator from the strict career path previously followed and allow for civilian entry. The first edition of this new document, NFPA 1033, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*, was adopted by the NFPA in June of 1987.

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

The NFPA Standards Council established the Technical Committee on Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications in 1990 to address the need for specific expertise in the area of fire investigation to review and revise the existing document. This committee completed a job task analysis and developed specific job performance requirements for the job of fire investigator.

The intent of the Technical Committee on Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications 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 a fire investigator. These job performance requirements are applicable to fire investigators both public and private.

In the 2003 edition of the document, the Technical Committee made changes to bring it into conformance with the new *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

In the 2009 edition of the document, the Technical Committee has added an explanatory annex item to the Scope statement. The committee's intent was to clarify that the standard applies to all fire investigation, including outside, vehicle, and other fires that are not structural. The committee added a skills maintenance requirement to Chapter 1 and included more specific Requisite Knowledge statements to various JPRs.



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Frank E. Florence, NFPA Staff Liaison

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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.

Technical Committee on Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications (PQU-FIV)

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