

NFPA® 1037

Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal

2012 Edition



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NFPA® 1037

Standard for

Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal

2012 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1037, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications and released by the Technical Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications. It was issued by the Standards Council on December 13, 2011, with an effective date of January 2, 2012, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1037 was approved as an American National Standard on January 2, 2012.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1037

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 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.

The Standards Council, at its October 2001 meeting, approved a project requested by the International Fire Marshals Association for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal. In January 2003, Jim A. Crawford was named as Chair for this new project.

The first edition of this standard identified, in terms of job performance requirements (JPRs), the minimum qualifications for professional competence for Fire Marshals and equivalent positions.

In the 2012 edition, the technical committee has added requirements to provide minimum levels of requisite knowledge and skills related to the prevention field, including, but not limited to, fire inspector, plans examiner, fire investigator, and fire and life safety educator. These requirements recognize that managers should have some level of expertise in their field. NFPA 1037 now emphasizes the demands of organizations, legal requirements, and local jurisdiction requirements with the allocated resources.

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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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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 documents on professional competence required of fire marshals.

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A reference in brackets [] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex D. Extracted text may be edited for consistency and style and may include the revision of internal paragraph references and other references as appropriate. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

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

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1* Scope. This standard identifies the professional level of performance required for Fire Marshal, specifically identifying the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) necessary to perform as a Fire Marshal.

1.2 Purpose.

1.2.1 The purpose of this standard is to specify in terms of JPRs the minimum qualifications for professional competence for Fire Marshals and equivalent positions.

1.2.2 It is not the intent of the standard to restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding these requirements.

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, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 1031, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner*, 2009 edition.

NFPA 1035, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, and Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist*, 2010 edition.

2.3 Other Publications. Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA, 2003.

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 1000, *Standard for Fire Service Professional Qualifications Accreditation and Certification Systems*, 2011 edition.

NFPA 1002, *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2009 edition.

NFPA 1021, *Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications*, 2009 edition.

NFPA 1031, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner*, 2009 edition.

NFPA 1033, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*, 2009 edition.

NFPA 1035, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, and Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist*, 2010 edition.

NFPA 1451, *Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Training Program*, 2007 edition.

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 defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

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* Code. A standard that is an extensive compilation of provisions covering broad subject matter or that is suitable for adoption into law independently of other codes and standards.

3.2.4 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.5 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

3.2.6 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 Acceptable Level of Risk. See 3.3.18.1.

3.3.2* Applicable Codes and Standards. Those codes and standards that are legally adopted and enforced by a jurisdiction at the time of construction of an occupancy or installation of a system or of equipment.

3.3.3 Community Risk. See 3.3.18.2.