

NFPA®

1037

Standard on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications

2016



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NFPA®1037

Standard on

Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications

2016 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1037, *Standard on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications*, was prepared by the Committee on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications and released by the Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 14, 2015, with an effective date of December 4, 2015, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1037 was approved as an American National Standard on December 4, 2015.

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 that new project.

The first edition of this standard, in 2007, 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 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. Those requirements recognized that managers should have some level of expertise in their fields. NFPA 1037 now emphasized the demands of organizations, legal requirements, and local jurisdiction requirements with the allocated resources.

As part of the revision process for the 2016 edition, the technical committee completed a job task analysis. The technical committee made changes to that revision to better enable the end-user to assess and qualify individuals for the duties and responsibilities of fire marshal. Chapter 4 delineates the core JPRs specific to fire marshal. Mission-specific JPRs beyond fire marshal include regulatory, public education, and investigation. To qualify for fire marshal, an individual must complete the core qualifications and at least one of the mission-specific qualifications. The number of mission-specific qualifications are determined by the authority having jurisdiction. The technical committee also removed references to extracted material from other documents, opting to develop text that directly correlates to the intended use of the document. Finally, the technical committee added a sample evaluation matrix to assist evaluators in determining the qualifications for fire marshal.

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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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Committee Scope: This committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on professional qualifications 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 minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for Fire Marshal.

1.2* Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum JPRs for service as a Fire Marshal.

1.2.1 This standard shall define a Fire Marshal.

1.2.2 The intent of this standard shall be to ensure that personnel serving as a Fire Marshal are qualified.

1.2.3* This standard shall not address organization or management responsibility.

1.2.4 It is not the intent of this standard to restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding or combining these minimum requirements.

1.2.5 JPRs for each level and position are the tasks personnel shall be able to perform to carry out the job duties.

1.2.6* A Fire Marshal shall remain current with the general knowledge and skills and JPRs addressed for each level or position of qualification.

1.3 Application. The application of this standard is to specify which requirements within the document shall apply to Fire Marshal.

1.3.1 The JPRs shall be accomplished in accordance with the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) and all applicable NFPA standards.

1.3.2 It shall not be required that the JPRs be mastered in the order in which they appear. The AHJ shall establish instructional priority and the training program content to prepare personnel to meet the JPRs of this standard.

1.3.3* Performance of each requirement of this standard shall be evaluated by personnel approved by the AHJ.

1.3.4 The JPRs for each level or position shall be completed in accordance with recognized practices and procedures or as defined by law or by the AHJ.

1.3.5 Personnel assigned the duties of Fire Marshal shall meet all the requirements defined in Chapter 4 prior to being qualified.

1.3.6 The AHJ shall provide personal protective clothing and the equipment necessary to conduct assignments.

1.3.7 JPRs involving exposure to products of combustion shall be performed in approved PPE.

1.3.8 Prior to training to meet the requirements of this standard, personnel shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Educational requirements established by the AHJ
- (2) Age requirements established by the AHJ
- (3) Medical requirements established by the AHJ
- (4) Job-related physical performance requirements established by the AHJ

1.3.9 Wherever in this standard the terms *rules, regulations, policies, procedures, supplies, apparatus, or equipment* are referred to, it is implied that they are those of the AHJ.

1.4 Units. In this standard, equivalent values in SI units shall not be considered as the requirement, as these values can be approximate. (See Table 1.4.)

Table 1.4 U.S.-to-SI Conversions

Quantity	U.S. Unit/Symbol	SI Unit/Symbol	Conversion Factor
Length	inch (in.)	millimeter (mm)	1 in. = 25.4 mm
	foot (ft)	meter (m)	1 ft = 0.305 m
Area	square foot (ft ²)	square meter (m ²)	1 ft ² = 0.0929 m ²