

NFPA 1451

Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Training Program

2007 Edition



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

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Standard for a

Fire Service Vehicle Operations Training Program

2007 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1451, *Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Training Program*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training. It was issued by the Standards Council on December 1, 2006, with an effective date of December 20, 2006, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1451 was approved as an American National Standard on December 20, 2006.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1451

In response to a request by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in 1991, the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training started work on a new standard for a training program for fire service vehicle operations. The NTSB specifically requested NFPA “. . . emphasize that the safe arrival of the apparatus at the scene of the emergency is the first priority.”

The committee also wanted to produce an NFPA standard to meet the intent of NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational and Health Program*, where it states in the chapter on Vehicles, Drivers, and Equipment: “Fire department vehicles shall be operated only by members who have successfully completed an approved driver training program.”

An *NFPA Journal* article, “1995 Fire Fighter Fatalities,” added further importance to the subject when it reported that “. . . 23.9 percent of those who died last year, died in motor vehicle accidents.”

The committee’s intent was to create a document outlining a training program that produces drivers who are able to prevent vehicle accidents.

The first edition of NFPA 1451 was issued in 1997. Subsequently, the committee appointed a task group to review the 1997 edition content and make recommendations to the committee concerning its functionality. As a result of that review, a general updating was suggested.

In the 2002 edition, some of the general updating included revisions representing an evolution of knowledge about vehicle operations. The application of the standard was expanded to include private industrial and contract fire departments and industrial fire brigades that respond off site. New terminology included the use of the word “crash” to replace the word “accident.” The term “accident” was perceived by some to mean an unavoidable or chance occurrence beyond the influence of training. Crashes can indeed be avoided and prevented by training.

The numbering of the chapters and the paragraphs of the 2002 edition differed from the previous edition as a result of changes associated with the 2000 edition of the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. The 2007 edition features mainly editorial changes.

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 all fire service training techniques, operations, and procedures to develop maximum efficiency and proper utilization of available personnel. Such activities can include training guides for fire prevention, fire suppression, and other missions for which the fire service has responsibility.



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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

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 B. Editorial changes to extracted material consist of revising references to an appropriate division in this document or the inclusion of the document number with the division number when the reference is to the original document. 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 B.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope.

1.1.1 This standard shall contain the minimum requirements for a fire service vehicle operations training program.

1.1.2 This standard shall outline the development of a written fire service vehicle training program, which includes the organizational procedures for training personnel, maintaining vehicles, and identifying equipment deficiencies; design; financing; and other areas.

1.1.3 The knowledge and skills required of safety, training, maintenance, and administrative officers charged with developing and implementing the fire service vehicle operations training program shall also be outlined within this standard.

1.2 Purpose.

1.2.1* The purpose of this standard shall be to specify the minimum requirements for a fire service vehicle operations training program, including procedures for those members that drive or occupy fire service vehicles, respond in private vehicles or unconventional means of transportation, and provide traffic control at the scene of an emergency.

1.2.2* The objective of this standard shall be to help prevent crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving fire service vehicles.

1.3 Application.

1.3.1 These requirements shall apply to organizations providing fire suppression, fire and rescue training, and other

emergency services, including public fire brigades and departments, private industrial and contract fire departments, emergency medical vehicles, and industrial fire brigades that respond off site.

1.3.2 This standard shall apply to any fire service vehicle used by any member of the fire department or industrial fire brigade when responding off site.

1.3.3 This document shall not apply to aircraft or watercraft.

1.4 Equivalency. Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this standard.

1.4.1 Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency.

1.4.2 The system, method, or device shall be approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.

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 414, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Vehicles*, 2007 edition.

NFPA 1002, *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2003 edition.

NFPA 1003, *Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, 2005 edition.

NFPA 1041, *Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications*, 2007 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, 2007 edition.

NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer*, 2002 edition.

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

NFPA 1914, *Standard for Testing Fire Department Aerial Devices*, 2002 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 U.S. Government Publications. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 383, "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act," 2003.

U.S. General Service Administration KKK-A-1822-D, "Star of Life Ambulance Specifications," November 1994.

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

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 600, *Standard on Industrial Fire Brigades*, 2005 edition.

NFPA 921, *Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations*, 2004 edition.

NFPA 1002, *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2003 edition.

