

NFPA®

1937

Standard for the
Selection, Care, and Maintenance
of Rescue Tools

2021



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NFPA® 1937

Standard for the

Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Rescue Tools

2021 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1937, *Standard for the Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Rescue Tools*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Department Rescue Tools. It was issued by the Standards Council on October 5, 2020, with an effective date of October 25, 2020.

This edition of NFPA 1937 was approved as an American National Standard on October 25, 2020.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1937

For the first edition of the standard, the committee has developed requirements to ensure that the selection, care, and maintenance of rescue tools are met as part of an overall program and that those rescue tools are compliant with NFPA 1936, *Standard on Rescue Tools*. This standard was also developed to establish the procedures that make up the selection, care, and maintenance program with which new rescue tools and lifting bags are required to comply. The standard also includes requirements for records management to ensure that pertinent data is collected and retained to reduce the potential health and safety risks that can be associated with poorly maintained or obsolete rescue tools and lifting bags.

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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 related to the design, inspection, testing, and use of rescue tools for the fire services.

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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. 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 and extracted publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex B.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope.

1.1.1 This standard shall specify minimum requirements for the selection, care, maintenance, and record keeping of lifting bags and rescue tools that are compliant with NFPA 1936.

1.1.2 This standard shall not specify requirements for other organizational programs such as the use of lifting bags and rescue tools for training or operations, because these programs are under the jurisdiction of other NFPA standards.

1.1.3 Nothing herein shall restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding these minimum requirements.

1.2 Purpose.

1.2.1 The purpose of this standard shall be to establish procedures as part of a program to provide for selection, service, care, maintenance, and record keeping of lifting bags, rescue tools, and components to reduce the potential health and safety risks associated with poorly maintained, contaminated,

damaged, or obsolete lifting bags, rescue tools, and components.

1.2.2 This standard shall also establish basic criteria for the evaluation and selection process associated with purchasing lifting bags and rescue tools to ensure only lifting bags and rescue tools that meet the requirements of NFPA 1936 for use by emergency services organizations are selected.

1.2.3 The purpose of this standard shall also be to establish that safety is a primary concern for the continued in-service use of lifting bags, rescue tools, and components and that safety is the ultimate factor in the decision to service, maintain, repair, or retire lifting bags, rescue tools, and components from service.

1.3 Application.

1.3.1 This standard shall apply to the requirements for selection, care, maintenance, and the associated record keeping of the lifting bags and rescue tools of the emergency service organization’s program as required by NFPA 1936.

1.3.2 This standard shall apply to the acquisition of new lifting bags, rescue tools, and components and to the preparation of these new lifting bags, rescue tools, and components before they are placed in service.

1.3.3 This standard shall apply to the organization’s existing lifting bags, rescue tools, and components and also apply to the selection process to acquire new lifting bags, rescue tools, and components to augment or replace existing lifting bags, rescue tools, and components.

1.3.4 When this standard is adopted by an organization or by a jurisdiction, the authority having jurisdiction shall set a date or dates for achieving compliance with the requirements of this standard.

1.3.5 The organization or the jurisdiction shall be permitted to establish a phase-in schedule for compliance with specific requirements of this standard.

1.3.6 Unless otherwise noted, this standard shall apply to lifting bags, rescue tools, and components regardless of year of manufacture, while they are in storage, in service, in use, and after use.

1.4 Equivalency.

1.4.1 Nothing in this standard shall 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.

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

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

1.5 Units of Measurement. In this standard, metric units of measurement are followed by an equivalent in Imperial units, but only the value that first appears shall be considered as the requirement, since the value in Imperial units could be approximate.

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 1936, *Standard on Rescue Tools*, 2020 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 3, *Standard for Commissioning of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems*, 2018 edition.

NFPA 1035, *Standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist, and Youth Firesetter Program Manager Professional Qualifications*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 1521, *Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications*, 2020 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 Labeled. Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation, that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials, and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

3.2.4* Listed. Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

3.2.5 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

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

3.2.7 Standard. An NFPA Standard, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word “shall” to indicate requirements and that is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Nonmandatory provisions are not to be considered a part of the requirements of a standard and shall be located in an appendix, annex, footnote, informational note, or other means as permitted in the NFPA Manuals of Style. When used in a generic sense, such as in the phrase “standards development process” or “standards development activities,” the term “standards” includes all NFPA Standards, including Codes, Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guides.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Accessories. Those items that are attached to the rescue tool, lifting bag, or to a component but are not necessary for the rescue tool, lifting bag, or component to meet the requirements of this standard.

3.3.2 Care. Procedures for cleaning, decontamination, storage, and service preparation of lifting bags, rescue tools, components, and associated equipment.

3.3.3 Combination Tool. A rescue tool that is capable of at least spreading and cutting.

3.3.4 Compliant. Verified as meeting or exceeding all applicable requirements of this standard.

3.3.5 Components.

3.3.5.1 Lifting Bag Components. Components such as a hose and hose assembly, regulator, pressure indicator, safety valve, and a control device.

3.3.5.2* Powered Rescue Tool Components. Components such as cable assemblies, hose assemblies, power units, hose reels, and remote valve blocks.

3.3.6 Contamination/Contaminated. The process by which rescue tools, lifting bags, components, or associated equipment have been exposed to hazardous materials or biological agents.

3.3.7* Coupling. Connectors attached to the rescue tools, hose assemblies, lifting bags, or accessories to allow for the connection and disconnection of components.

3.3.8 Cutter. A rescue tool with at least one movable blade that is used to cut, shear, or sever material.

3.3.9 Follow-Up Program. The sampling, inspections, tests, or other measures conducted by the third-party certification organization on a periodic basis to determine the continued compliance of listed products that are being produced by the manufacturer to the requirements of this standard.

3.3.10 In-Service. Ready for immediate use.

3.3.11 Label. A permanently affixed identifying tag that provides manufacturer- and product-specific part number and specifications.

3.3.12 Lifting Bag. A portable inflatable bag used to apply force to move or lift objects.