

NFPA®

405

**Standard for
the Recurring Proficiency
of Airport Fire Fighters**

2020



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NFPA® 405

Standard for the

Recurring Proficiency of Airport Fire Fighters

2020 Edition

This edition of NFPA 405, *Standard for the Recurring Proficiency of Airport Fire Fighters*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting. It was issued by the Standards Council on April 28, 2019, with an effective date of May 18, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 405 was approved as an American National Standard on May 18, 2019.

Origin and Development of NFPA 405

In 1994, the Standards Council approved the request of the Technical Committee on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting to develop a new document to address the maintaining of proficiency of aircraft rescue and fire-fighting services at airports. This recommended practice evolved from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR), Part 139, Certification and Operations: Land Airports Serving Certain Air Carriers. In NFPA 405, the committee had expanded the training curriculum provided in Part 139.319 by providing airport authorities with more specific information with which to develop comprehensive programs in order to maintain proficiency of ARFF services at airports.

The 1999 edition was a recommended practice. The document was changed to a standard for the 2004 edition.

In the 2010 edition, the technical committee made several additions to the requirements of this document, the most significant addition being the inclusion of all the requirements of NFPA 1003, *Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*. The technical committee recognized that fire fighters must meet certain minimum qualifications prior to being assigned to aircraft rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) activities and that NFPA 1003 contained such minimum requirements. While NFPA 1003 sets the initial minimum qualifications required, NFPA 405 builds on NFPA 1003 and includes the recurrent training requirements that are to be used by those assigned to ARFF activities. The technical committee also added recurrent training requirements that involve the use of proximity personal protective equipment (PrPPE). The technical committee also brought the document in line with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*, as well as updated many of the references that are used in the document.

For the 2015 edition, many of the changes to the recurrent training requirements were made to bring the document more in line with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements for recurrent training for airport fire fighters. To allow increased use of this document internationally, the committee also included requirements that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had for airport fire fighters governed by ICAO.

One of the most significant and highly discussed alterations for this edition was the change in time interval for skills evaluations, from 18 months to 12 months, which was done to align with the time interval the FAA requires. Another significant change included in this edition was a greater focus on safety management for airport fire fighters and their important roles as team members. The committee also included requirements to ensure that airport fire fighters are aware of the environmental impacts of extinguishing agents. Given the potential for international use of this document, the committee modified the EMS requirements to where the AHJ determines the minimum level of EMS to be provided. Lastly, the committee rewrote the entire chapter on recurrent live fire to address the skills and knowledge to be evaluated for live fire and live spill fire training. These changes were made to align the document with what the FAA and the ICAO require airport fire fighters to be evaluated against.

The 2020 edition has incorporated substantial changes in the formatting of each chapter. Each chapter has been reorganized with specific competencies for ARFF personnel followed by criteria to gauge each competency. Specific criteria and training requirements have been updated throughout the document to account for improved technologies and industry best practices since previous editions. Training on personnel safety has been expanded to include behavioral wellness training. Finally, the requirements for live fire training were updated to include the need for ARFF personnel to be proficient in the use of extendable turrets.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for aircraft rescue and fire-fighting (ARFF) documents used by organizations providing ARFF services for operational procedures; training; foam testing and application; specialized equipment; and planning for aircraft emergencies.

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