

NFPA 473

Standard for Competencies for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents

2002 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA 473

Standard for

Competencies for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents

2002 Edition

This edition of NFPA 473, *Standard for Competencies for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Hazardous Materials Response Personnel and acted on by NFPA at its November Association Technical Meeting held November 10–14, 2001, in Dallas, TX. It was issued by the Standards Council on January 11, 2002, with an effective date of January 31, 2002, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 473 was approved as an American National Standard on January 31, 2002.

Origin and Development of NFPA 473

Following the development of NFPA 471 and NFPA 472, the Hazardous Materials Response Personnel Committee undertook the development of this standard relating to the professional competencies of emergency medical personnel who may be required to respond to hazardous materials incidents. The roles and responsibilities of EMS personnel at hazardous materials incidents had not been identified in the majority of emergency response systems.

The first edition subsequently was released in 1992. In the 1997 edition the committee reviewed the first edition and updated it for consistency with the related NFPA 471 and NFPA 472 and for clarity of the competencies.

In 1998 the committee processed a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) to address concerns related to the unique challenges of responding to hazardous materials incidents that could be caused by criminal or terrorist activity. These concerns were motivated by incidents such as the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City and other national and international incidents.

The TIA added paragraphs on recognizing criminal and terrorist activities, differentiating between chemical and biological agents, actions to take when criminal or terrorist activity is suspected, providing patient care at incidents resulting from chemical and biological agents, and other similar competencies.

In this 2002 edition the TIA material was updated and moved into the body of the text, along with other updates to coordinate with a similar TIA and other new material in NFPA 472 related to weapons of mass destruction and incidents involving radioactive materials. Additional changes in wording and format were made in conformance to the 2000 edition of the *NFPA Manual of Style*.

The Committee would like to dedicate this standard to the fallen heroes of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. Many lives were saved because of their efforts. These individuals gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and stand alone in their bravery and dedication to their jobs and their country. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends, and co-workers. Let us never forget these brave individuals and the other emergency responders who have died in the line of duty. The Committee especially wishes to honor Committee member John J. Fanning, FDNY, who died in the line of duty on September 11.

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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.

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