

NFPA[®]

1000

**Standard for Fire
Service Professional
Qualifications Accreditation
and Certification Systems**

2017



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ISBN: 978-145591550-7 (Print)
ISBN: 978-145591551-4 (PDF)

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NFPA® 1000

Standard for

Fire Service Professional Qualifications Accreditation and Certification Systems

2017 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1000, *Standard for Fire Service Professional Qualifications Accreditation and Certification Systems*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Accreditation and Certification for Fire Service, Public Safety, and Related Personnel to Professional Qualifications Standards and released by the Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 19, 2016, with an effective date of August 8, 2016, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA was approved as an American National Standard on August 8, 2016.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1000

In 1990, the Professional Qualifications Correlating Committee recommended that the Association establish a project related to fire service certification and accreditation programs. The project was approved at the July 1990 meeting of the NFPA Standards Council. As a result of that action, a technical committee was named to develop procedures for the accreditation of agencies involved in certification, based on the NFPA Professional Qualifications Standards, and procedures for the certification of individuals to those standards.

The Technical Committee on Accreditation and Certification to Fire Service Professional Qualifications met for the first time in October 1991 and regularly during 1992 and 1993 to develop this document. The committee reviewed materials related to accreditation and certification programs of non-fire service organizations and, where possible, used nationally accepted requirements from those programs as the basis for this document. The committee's objective was to develop requirements that could be used to evaluate accreditation and certification systems that use NFPA Professional Qualifications Standards, and the first edition of NFPA 1000 was published in 1994.

For the 2000 edition, the committee added provisions for the accrediting of nonengineering, fire-related, academic, degree-granting programs offered by institutions of higher education.

For the 2006 edition, the committee added provisions to recognize changing methodologies used for evaluations for both accreditation and certification agencies. Changes were made to bring the document into conformance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

For the 2011 edition, the committee made changes that clarified the distinction between "training" and "certification" by adding a definition for the word *training*. Also added was language designed to strengthen the ethical expectations of accrediting bodies. The committee also chose to use the word *candidates* instead of *students* to ensure delineation between training, education, and certification.

The committee has made several changes for the 2017 edition. The term "fire and related emergency response personnel" has been replaced with "fire service, public safety, and related personnel" throughout the document. Language has been added to require a certifying entity to ensure the safety and health of individuals participating in the evaluation process. Certifying agencies are required to comply with applicable NFPA or equivalent standards adopted by the authority having jurisdiction and with the principles and concepts identified in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's "16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives." The committee also added language directing certifying entities to develop a policy that addresses current knowledge and skills as well as recertification and renewal requirements.