

Fire Certification Program  
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Salem, Oregon 97317  
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Updated



# NFPA 1033

## Fire Investigator

NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional  
Qualifications for Fire Investigator  
Guide to Certification

*The following information contains excerpts from NFPA  
1033. The DPSST Fire Certification Program has  
provided an overview for the applicant to use in  
conjunction with the application process.*

## **NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator Task Force Information**

On August 9, 2017 The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator Task Force convened at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) at the direction of the Fire Policy Committee (FPC) to discuss and review the 2014 standard.

The Task Force reviewed current standards for certification and determined it would be in the best interest of the Oregon fire service to adopt into Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) the 2014 Edition of NFPA 1033. The Task Force determined there wouldn't be any negative impacts to the Oregon fire service with the adoption of the updated standard. The Task Force requested staff create a guide to discuss and share information pertaining to the updated standard.

## **Explanation of NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator Updates**

Changes to the NFPA 1033 standard from the 2009 to 2014 edition were minimal and the Task Force determined it would not have a major impact on the Oregon fire service. The Task Force did recommend that DPSST continue offering the Fire Investigator exam to candidates as a testing option. In keeping in line with national and international Fire Investigator testing standards, the Task Force determined that the candidate must achieve a score of 75% to successfully apply for certification, up from the previous requirement of 70%. The candidate must also complete the course requirements and Task Book prior to applying for certification, except in certain circumstances as outlined in Option 1 on the following page.

## Examination and Application Requirements

In order to successfully apply for certification as an NFPA Fire Investigator, you must first complete all requirements from either Option 1 or Option 2 below prior to applying for DPSST certification.

### Option 1:

An applicant can successfully apply for an NFPA Fire Investigator certification if they hold one or more of the following:

- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Certified Fire Investigator (CFI),
- IAAI Fire Investigation Technician (FIT), or
- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI)

An applicant with one or more of the aforementioned certifications is not required to complete the DPSST written examination or the NFPA Fire Investigator Task Book. Because these certifications are considered reciprocity, the Task Book requirement is left to the decision of the submitting fire service agency. DPSST does not require completion of a Task Book when applying for reciprocity.

### Option 2:

If the applicant does NOT hold a IAAI CFI, IAAI FIT, or NAFI CFEI certification, the applicant MUST take the DPSST NFPA Fire Investigator written examination and achieve at least a score of 75%, complete the NFPA Fire Investigator Task Book, as well as complete at least one of the following courses:

- Basic Fire Investigation: Level 100 AND 200—DPSST Course Numbers 16F001 and 16F002
- OSFM Basic Fire Investigation Class—DPSST Course Number 16F021
- Fire Investigation Classes—Community College Investigator Programs
- Fire Investigation: Essentials (R0206) - National Fire Academy
- IAAI 40 Hour Fundamentals of Fire Investigation
- Equivalent Courses/Classes (must have proof of course equivalency through appropriate documentation)

The DPSST NFPA Fire Investigator examination is offered on a quarterly basis. Please contact Tina Diehl at [tina.diehl@state.or.us](mailto:tina.diehl@state.or.us) or by phone at 503-378-2254 for testing dates and information.

# Revised Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR)

***NOTE TO READER:** Excerpts are specific to OAR for NFPA Fire Investigator, therefore the numbering system will appear out of sync. These revised changes were reviewed by the Task Force, the Fire Policy Committee (FPC) and approved by the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board). The proposed changes went through the public comment period from January 1st through 21st and approved as permanent on February 1, 2017.*

## **259-009-0005 Definitions**

(43) "NFPA Fire Investigator" means an individual who conducts post fire investigations to determine the cause and the point of origin of a fire. This individual has met the job performance requirements of NFPA Standard 1033.

## **259-009-0062 Fire Service Professional Certification**

(f) The provisions of the NFPA Standard 1033, 2014 Edition, entitled "Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator" are adopted subject to the following definitions and requirements:

(A) Applicants for certification as NFPA Fire Investigator must:

(i) Successfully complete a Department-approved task book;

(ii) Achieve a passing score of 75% or better on the Department's written Fire Investigator exam unless exempt from the exam as defined in the following paragraph (2)(f)(B); and

(iii) Furnish proof that they have successfully completed all required course work or have provided equivalent training documents.

(B) Upon submission of proof of valid certification, applicants for certification as NFPA Fire Investigator are exempt from the requirement to complete the Department's written Fire Investigator exam if they currently hold any of the following certifications:

(i) International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Certified Fire Investigator (CFI); or

(ii) International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Fire Investigation Technician (FIT); or

(iii) National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI).

## Task Book Information

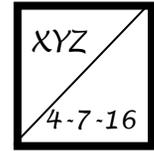
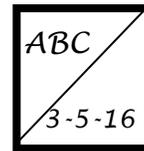
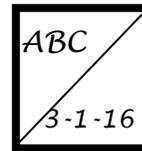
Task Book Qualification Record Books (Task Book) have been developed for various certification levels within the DPSST system. Each Task Book lists the Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) for the specific certification level in a format that allows a candidate to be trained and **evaluated during one (1) to three (3) sequential sessions, depending on the number of boxes corresponding to each JPR.** Successful performance of all tasks, as observed and recorded by a qualified and approved evaluator will result in the candidate's eligibility for DPSST certification.

To become certified at a specific level, the applicant must successfully complete the job performance requirements in sequence. Before a job performance evaluation can be taken, all requisite knowledge and skills must be satisfied. In addition, all relative task book evaluations must be checked off by the evaluator. When all prescribed requirements have been met, an application for certification will be forwarded to DPSST. As always, only an individual actively certified in that specialty area may sign off on the Task Book.

For an example and further explanation of Task Book requirements, please see the following page.

## JPR Evaluation Example

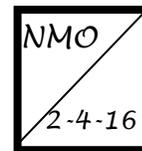
**4.2.2 Document the routine tests, inspections, and servicing functions, given maintenance and inspection forms, so that all items are checked for operation and deficiencies are reported.**



These skills are the job performance evaluations intended to be completed after the Requisite Knowledge and Requisite Skills have been successfully finished. This section should be accomplished during three separate dates at the firefighter's home department or, if no one at the home department is certified to sign off on the skills, at a neighboring department.

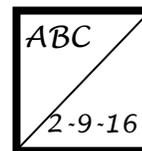


**(A) Requisite Knowledge.** Departmental requirements for documenting maintenance performed and the importance of keeping accurate records.



The Requisite Knowledge portions of the task book may be done during class and signed off by the instructor. Requisite Knowledge are the only JPR's that are intended to be signed off in class.

**(B) Requisite Skills.** The ability to use tools and equipment and complete all related departmental forms.



Requisite Skills are intended to be completed at the firefighter's home department or, if no one at the home department is certified to sign off on the skills, at a neighboring department.