

5 Training and Certification

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5.1 Overview

This chapter establishes policies and provides guidance to ensure personnel with structural fire responsibilities are properly trained, qualified, and certified as structural firefighters and fire prevention personnel. This chapter clearly spells out what is required in training, certification, and policy level requirements to be recognized and/or certified at various levels within the Structural Fire Program. [Chapter 4, *Structural Fire Operations*](#), should be referenced to understand engine company operations and firefighting equipment.

The NPS provides structural fire and all-hazards response to meet park mission goals and responsibilities. To serve this capability and to provide parks with the necessary skills, the NPS Structural Fire Program has a certification and training system for various levels of fire prevention training and operational response. Many of these levels correspond to national standards of certification, which have been established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

5.2 Authority Having Jurisdiction

The NPS Structural Fire Chief (NPS-FC) retains Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) authority for certification and training standards.

5.3 Certification

The NPS Structural Fire Training Program is mandatory for all personnel engaged in structural fire suppression and prevention activities (e.g., PSFCs, instructors, firefighters) for the NPS. **All personnel performing structural fire activities shall be recognized and certified through the Structural Fire Training Program, National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board), and/or International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).** *IFSAC and Pro Board accredited training programs shall be referred to as recognized accredited agencies throughout this document.*

Beginning January 1, 2023, all NPS Structural Fire Training Program issued certifications shall be Pro Board and/or NPS certified. All future firefighter and FADO courses will be accredited by Pro Board and result in Pro Board certifications.

Previously offered courses by the NPS Structural Fire Training Program may not have resulted in Pro Board certification. For courses that were not Pro Board accredited or students didn't complete Pro Board requirements, NPS certifications were issued.

The NPS Structural Fire Program is the sole structural firefighter certifying entity for the NPS. The NPS certification program is a mandatory program for all employees, partners, and volunteers seeking certification through the NPS. The use of volunteers within the structural fire management program is common. Volunteers may not be used to respond to fire or other hazardous activities without first being selected as an emergency hire in an approved administratively determined (AD) position. AD positions have been developed for all fireground positions, including firefighter, FADO, and fire officer.

Parks are authorized to conduct their own firefighter training but are not authorized to issue their own structural fire training certifications (e.g., Firefighter I/II and FADO).

Previous park-level issued certifications will not be recognized. Structural fire training certifications obtained from other entities must be presented to the NPS Structural Fire Program for validation and reciprocity, if appropriate. Personnel engaged in structural firefighter activities shall meet all the requirements listed in policy. Employees participating in structural fire activities with non-recognized certifications will be considered as operating outside of NPS policy and shall be formally notified by their management to cease responding until they meet all aspects of policy.

- Each park is responsible to ensure compliance with this policy.
- Participants in the NPS Structural Fire Program shall be a minimum of eighteen years of age.
- Personnel engaged in structural fire activities shall be tested on the written and manipulative skill performance objectives, as outlined for each level of certification.
- The NPS Structural Fire Program has an advisory process on certification through the NPS and Pro Board as identified in the Pro Board Procedural Guide.
- Personnel wishing to participate in the suppression of structure fires or respond to all-hazards incidents as a structural firefighter, while an employee, partner, or agent of the NPS, may choose to receive their training through the NPS or through a Pro Board/IFSAC accredited agency.
- The NPS Structural Fire Program may only provide training to NPS employees, partners, volunteers, or other agencies as determined by the Structural Fire Program through agreements. Training shall not be provided to individuals not meeting these criteria.
- NPS employees who have obtained their certification through a state must comply with that state's certification requirements and apply for NPS reciprocity. They are not eligible for Pro Board certification (if non-Pro Board certification was provided by the state) through the NPS, unless they formally challenge the associated certification.
- Personnel who have obtained a non-Pro Board certification from one state and have since moved to another state may not participate in NPS structural fire operations. They shall apply for NPS reciprocity or obtain Pro Board certification (e.g., challenge) from the NPS.

5.3.1 NPS Certifications

Firefighters with NPS certifications issued prior to January 1, 2012, are no longer valid as of January 1, 2024. Firefighters shall apply for reciprocity before the December 31, 2023 deadline and may be considered for issuance of a current NPS certification.

Firefighters shall meet the following requirements to be considered for approval:

- Current/Active Firefighter meeting all requirement benchmarks
 - Physical Ability Test (PAT) (Passing Score)
 - Structural Fire Medical Determination (Qualified)
 - SCBA Fit Test (Pass)
 - Structural Firefighter Refresher (Current)
- Annual/Refresher training documentation for the previous two (2) years
- No lapses in service exceeding reinstatement requirements

5.3.2 Pro Board Certification

The NPS Structural Fire Program is accredited by Pro Board. All certification levels are tested to ensure that they meet or exceed the minimum standards. This shall not preclude the NPS Structural Fire Program from issuing fire certifications for courses not certified by Pro Board.

All personnel seeking Pro Board certification must successfully complete and pass the associated program requirements.

NPS Pro Board certifications may only be issued by the NPS Structural Fire Program and will only be issued to candidates who have successfully passed all assessments and meet all requirements using the Pro Board approved processes.

For a detailed review of agency policy and procedures about Pro Board accreditation and certification, contact the national office.

5.3.3 State Issued Certification

Employees, partners, or volunteers who have obtained their certification through a state NFPA accredited agency shall apply for NPS certification. These personnel may temporarily perform firefighting for the NPS until December 31, 2023, in their current state of certification. Employees, partners, or volunteers of the NPS who have only been issued state certifications (non-Pro Board or non-IFSAC) and are conducting firefighting activities in a state other than the issuing state shall immediately submit their supporting documentation to receive a NPS (non-Pro Board) certificate. An NPS non-Pro Board certificate allows an NPS firefighter to only operate within the boundaries of the park. The NPS no longer honors those certifications and employees participating in structural fire suppression activities are operating outside NPS policy.

5.4 Responsibility and Positions

5.4.1 NPS Structural Fire Chief (NPS-FC)

The NPS-FC has direct oversight and responsibility for the training and certification program for the NPS and retains AHJ as defined in NFPA 1001: *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*. This authority may be delegated.

5.4.2 Structural Fire Training Program Manager (SF-TPM)

- Provides support and technical guidance for structural fire training and certification service-wide.
- Retains authority in all matters pertaining to the governing of the fire suppression certification program and in all appeals.
- Works with the park structural fire programs and regional structural fire marshals (RSFMs) to develop training curricula and policies that comply with national standards, agency initiatives, and this chapter.
- Develops an annual training calendar.
- Oversees fire instructor cadre.
- Maintains agency certification records.

5.4.3 Structural Fire Certification Advisory Group

The Structural Fire Certification Advisory Group is made up of the three program managers of the NPS Structural Fire Program Office. The group establishes the administrative authority, responsibility, roles, and procedures as it pertains to the certification program for structural fire training and certification. The role of the group is to:

- Advise and assist with establishing minimum standards for fire suppression and prevention training and certification.
- Advise and assist in establishing procedures for determining if employees and partners of the service meet those minimum standards.
- Advise and assist certifying applicants who meet the established minimum standards.
- Make rulings, issue approvals, and conduct evaluations of documentation submitted by employees seeking NPS certification or Pro Board certification.
- Verify and approve certification of NPS fire service members.
- Review appeals, reciprocity, and reinstatement applications.
- Revoke, suspend, or deny certification.
- Audit testing processes conducted by agency-approved personnel.

5.4.4 Regional Structural Fire Marshals (RSFMs)

The RSFMs are responsible for the following:

- Ensure that personnel with structural fire responsibilities are compliant with this chapter.

- Monitor and convey regional structural fire training needs to the Structural Fire Program annually as input to the Structural Fire Certification Advisory Group.
- Ensure that training records identified in this chapter are maintained locally by the parks and in national data management systems. The records shall be readily available for program audits.

5.4.5 Park Superintendents

Park superintendents are responsible for the following:

- Overseeing that all personnel for whom the park superintendent has direct authority responding as structural firefighters to all-hazards incidents in or outside of the park boundaries are compliant with this chapter.
- Ensuring that training records identified in this chapter are maintained locally by the parks and in national data management systems. The records shall be readily available for program audits.

5.5 Firefighter Certifications

NFPA position standards identify prerequisites, which shall be met for certification in that position. Firefighters are required to meet standard prerequisites for agency and/or Pro Board certification.

5.5.1 Firefighter I – (Structural Firefighter I SFF1) (NFPA 1001)

A person operating as an SFF1 is at the first level of progression in their firefighter certifications as defined in NFPA 1001.

5.5.1.1 Required Experience and Certification

To perform as an SFF1, the firefighter must have obtained certification through a Pro Board or IFSAC accredited agency or through the NPS Structural Fire Training Program. In all cases, the certification shall comply with NFPA 1001.

5.5.1.2 Required Training

See Table 1, Certification Requirements.

5.5.1.3 Physical Fitness/Medical Requirements

- Firefighters are required to meet the agencies medical and fitness standards outlined in [Chapter 6, Health and Safety Standards](#).

5.5.1.4 Currency Requirements

- Every two years, successful completion of a 24-hour NPS Structural Firefighter Refresher course.
- Complete annual training listed in Table 2.

5.5.2 Firefighter II – (Structural Firefighter II SFF2) (NFPA 1001)

A person operating as an SFF2 is at a higher level of progression in their firefighter certifications as defined in NFPA 1001. The SFF2 may operate under general supervision

and may be expected to lead a group of equal or lesser trained personnel through the performance of specific tasks, as defined in NFPA 1001.

5.5.2.1 Required Experience and Certification

To perform as an SFF2, the firefighter must have obtained certification through a recognized accredited agency or through the NPS Structural Fire Training Program. In all cases, the certification must comply with NFPA 1001.

5.5.2.2 Required Training

See Table 1, Certification Requirements.

5.5.2.3 Physical Fitness/Medical Requirements

- Firefighters are required to meet the agencies medical and fitness standards outlined in [Chapter 6, Health and Safety Standards](#).

5.5.2.4 Currency Requirements

- Every two years, successful completion of a 24-hour NPS Structural Firefighter Refresher course.
- Complete annual training listed in Table 2.

5.5.3 Fire Apparatus Driver Operator (FADO) (NFPA 1002)

A person operating as an FADO must be able to safely transport firefighters to the scene of an emergency and be capable of operating the apparatus with adequate water flows to firefighters on the fireground.

5.5.3.1 Required Experience and Certification

To perform as a FADO, the driver operator must have obtained certification through a recognized accredited agency or through the NPS Structural Fire Training Program. In all cases, the certification must comply with NFPA 1002

5.5.3.2 Required Training

See Table 1, Certification Requirements.

5.5.3.3 Physical Fitness/ Medical Requirements

FADOs are required to meet the agency medical and fitness standards outlined in [Chapter 6, Health and Safety Standards](#).

5.5.3.4 Currency Requirements

- Every two years, successful completion of a 24-hour NPS Structural Firefighter Refresher course as an FADO student.
- Complete required annual training listed in Table 2 for Firefighter I/II and/or FADO.

5.5.4 Fire Service Instructor I (NFPA 1041)

A Fire Service Instructor I is a person who has demonstrated the knowledge and ability to deliver instruction effectively from prepared lesson plans, including aids and evaluation instruments. This position is limited to classroom instruction and delivering hands-on skill evolutions. Fire Service Instructors are not authorized to perform live fire training exercises, unless approved through the NPS Structural Fire Program as a Live Fire Instructor.

5.5.4.1 Required Experience and Certification

To perform as Fire Service Instructor, the instructor must have obtained certification through a recognized accredited agency or through the NPS Structural Fire Training Program. In all cases, the certification must comply with NFPA 1041: *Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications*. **Fire Instructors may only instruct up to the level of fire certification they currently possess.**

5.5.4.2 Required Training

See Table 1, Certification Requirements.

5.5.5 NPS Instructor Cadre

The SF-TPM shall be responsible for assuring that NPS Instructor Cadre are certified and approved to teach NPS sponsored courses. The SF-TPM shall maintain training records for each instructor, including training experience and roles served.

State, interagency, local fire department, or contract instructors utilized for fire training shall meet the same standards set forth for the NPS Fire Service Instructors and shall provide the following requirements and qualifications:

- Certification as a Fire Instructor I NFPA 1041: Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications.
- Memorandum/letter, on department letterhead, from their fire chief or structural fire program manager that shows they have been assigned instructor responsibilities within their organization.

All instructors, regardless of origin of certification, must comply with NPS requirements for medical, fitness, and SCBA fit test if they are involved with live fire training.

Instructors shall supervise, instruct, or co-instruct no less than one fire training event every two years to maintain their instructor status with the NPS. If an instructor has failed to meet requirements, they may reapply for instructor status by submitting their application to the SF-TPM.

5.5.6 Fire Officer I - (NFPA 1021)

The Fire Officer I level of certification by the NPS is not currently required to perform the duties of the engine company officer but is highly recommended. This level of certification requires the person to rapidly assess an emergency situation, quickly develop a safe tactical

plan, deploy qualified resources to mitigate the incident and maintain operational responsibility for the incident, until the incident is safely and completely mitigated.

5.5.6.1 Required Experience and Certification

To perform as a Fire Officer I, the Firefighter II must have obtained certification through a recognized accredited agency or through the NPS Structural Fire Program. In all cases, the certification must comply with NFPA 1021: *Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications*.

5.5.6.2 Required Training

See Table 1, *Certification Requirements*

5.5.7 Fire Instructor - Live Fire Instructor (LFI) (NFPA 1403)

The Live Fire Instructor can conduct live fire training evolutions in compliance with NFPA 1403: *Standard for Live Fire Training Evolutions*. The live fire instructor ensures that all training is conducted in compliance with agency policies and national standards. Ensures that all trainees are qualified and certified to safely participate in the training being conducted. Additionally, live fire instructors are to verify that all participants in the training are medically and physically fit and cleared to participate in all training sessions before the training exercises commence. This position can also assist the engine company parks in conducting live fire training to support their training programs, comply with refresher requirements, and develop personnel to become instructors.

5.5.7.1 Required Experience and Certification

Instructor candidates are required to submit a letter of intent, with supervisory signature approvals, to be recognized as an NPS live fire instructor. To perform as a live fire instructor, the instructor candidate must have obtained certification through the NPS by completing the NFPA 1403: *Standard for Live Fire Training Evolutions* course. In addition, the live fire instructor must instruct under the guidance of a recognized live fire instructor in each position required for live fire training. The recognized instructor(s) must certify that the live fire instructor candidate successfully completed the evolution. Once all positions are certified by a recognized instructor, the SF-TPM will formally recognize the candidate as a live fire instructor.

5.5.7.2 Required Training

See Table 1, *Certification Requirements*

5.5.7.3 Currency Requirements

- In addition to the currency requirements stated in SFF2, live fire instructors must supervise, instruct/co-instruct, or direct a minimum of one live fire-training event every two years.
- All NPS live fire instructors must attend an NPS 1403 approved refresher every four years following initial certification.

5.5.8 Marine Firefighter (MAFF) (NFPA 1005)

A person operating as a MAFF has a special understanding of the complications experienced combating small boat and marina fires utilizing land and water-based operations. Due to special and unique suppression operations challenges, and the dangers associated with marine-based fires, this position requires a Firefighter II certification, according to NFPA 1005: *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters*.

5.5.8.1 Required Experience and Certification

To perform as a MAFF, the firefighter must have obtained certification through a recognized Pro Board and/or IFSAC accredited agency or through the NPS Structural Fire Program as a Firefighter II.

5.5.8.2 Required Training

See Table 1, Certification Requirements

Table 1: Certification Requirements

Duty Position	Requirements	Recommended training to support associated knowledge and skills
Firefighter I/II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of NFPA 1001 (FF I/II) compliant course through NPS or other Pro Board/IFSAC accredited agency • Hazardous Materials Awareness (NFPA 1072/470) • Hazardous Materials Operations (NFPA 1072/472) • FEMA IS-100/200/700 • Emergency Medical Care (CPR/First Aid for the First Responder) • S-130 Firefighter Training • S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface • G-131 Wildland Training (FFT1) for Structural Firefighters • IS-800
Fire Apparatus Driver Operator (FADO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Apparatus Driver Operator • FEMA IS-100/200/700 • Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) • Structural Fire PPE <p>Park Specific Required Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Water Supply (MWS) Driver Operator • Aerial Driver Operator • IS-800 National Response Framework 	
Fire Service Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I Pro Board/IFSAC • Firefighter I/II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apparatus Driver Operator • Fire Officer I • Fire Service Instructor II & III • IS-800
Fire Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I Pro Board/IFSAC • Firefighter II • Fire Service Instructor I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Apparatus Driver Operator • Fire Officer II • Fire Inspector I • FEAM ICS-300 Intermediate ICS • G330 Wildland Training (STEN) for Structural Firefighters • FEAM F0610 Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for Structural Company Officer
Live Fire Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I (Instructor II for Live Fire Instructor-in-Charge) • Firefighter I/II • NFPA 1403 Live Fire Instructor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Instructor II & III • Fire Officer II • NWCG M-410 Facilitative Instructor
Marine Firefighter (as park requires)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighter I/II • DOI Motorboat Operator Certification Course (DOIMOCC) for operators 	

5.6 Fire Protection Training

5.6.1 Park Structural Fire Coordinator (PSFC)

To perform as a PSFC, the employee must obtain certification through the NPS Structural Fire Program. The PSFC needs to complete this basic training course within one year of being designated.

5.6.1.1 Recommended Training to Support Associated Knowledge and Skills:

- Fire Inspector I (NFPA 1030: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions)
- HazMat Awareness (NFPA 1072/470)
- International Fire Code (IFC)

5.6.2 Portable Fire Extinguisher

5.6.2.1 Required Experience and Certification

Whenever the employer has provided portable fire extinguishers, OSHA 1910.157 requires that the employer provide an education program to the employee upon initial employment and annually thereafter. Training is required annually.

5.6.2.2 Methods for Obtaining Required Experience and Certification

- DOI Talent – NPS Fire Extinguisher Training
- Other online training resources
- Live simulators, following manufacturer's instructions
- Local fire departments

5.6.3 Portable Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

Annual external maintenance of multipurpose (ABC), dry chemical, portable fire extinguishers is allowed by employees who have completed this training. The Portable Fire Extinguisher Maintenance standard operating procedure (SOP) provides information by which employees can be trained, certified, and approved to conduct annual external maintenance on these types of extinguishers.

5.7 Certification Administration

The NPS currently maintains a two-track certification system, Pro Board and NPS. Personnel who have met all requirements for either certification will be recognized. NPS certifications issued and/or recognized by the Structural Fire Program will be honored by all NPS sites. See Certification Administration SOP.

5.8 Annual Training Plan

The annual training plan listed below helps to ensure the same training is accomplished agency-wide providing firefighter interoperability capabilities.

5.8.1 Training Hours

The training hours will be completed throughout the calendar year. All training will be documented to ensure compliance with this standard. Firefighter annual training shall be comprised of the hours needed for the assigned duty position. Annual training hours shall be no less than 36 total hours per individual.

5.8.2 Non-interactive Training

No more than eight hours of non-interactive training utilizing distance learning media (video, trade publications, and internet) may be credited toward annual training requirements.

5.8.3 Training Preparation and Instruction

Annual training topics may be prepared and instructed by firefighters certified at the certification level being taught or higher.

Table 2: Annual Training Plan

Subject	CEU Hours per Subject Based on position certification			
	FF I	FADO	FF II (Lead FF)	Fire Officer
Building Construction	1	1	1	1
Firefighter Safety and Survival	2	2	2	2
Company Field Inspections			1	1
Fire Alarm/Suppression Systems	1	1	1	1
Fire Behavior	2		2	2
Fire Control (Fire Hose and Fire Streams)	2		1	1
Fire Instructor Principles			1	1
Fireground Hydraulics		4*		
Fireground Search and Rescue	2		1	1
Forcible Entry	2			
HazMat	1	1	1	1
Incident Action Plan			1	1
Incident Command System (Local Plans)	1	1	1	1
Accountability System (Park Specific)	1	2	2	2
Ladders	2	2	1	1
SCBA	2	2	2	2
Personal Protective Equipment	2	2	2	2
Planning for Resource Allocation			1	1
Pump Operations		4*		
Risk Management				1
Ropes and Knots	1		1	1
Salvage and Overhaul	2		1	1
Standard Operating Procedures	1	1	1	1
Reference Manual 58 Review	1	1	1	1
Strategies, Tactics, and Operations	1	1	3	3
Vehicle Extrication	2		2	2
Vehicle Safety/Emergency Vehicle Operations	1	3	2	
Ventilation	2		2	2
Water Supplies, Fire Hose and Fire Streams	2	4	2	2
Structural Vehicle Familiarization	2	4		
Total	36	36	36	36

* **Note:** If a firefighter is a FADO, they must also complete the specific FADO subject hours.

5.8.4 Annual Training Record Management

Training conducted to meet annual training requirements shall be documented and maintained by each park structural fire program manager, utilizing record keeping/tracking systems appropriate for their program.

5.8.4.1 Training Documentation Requirements

Training documentation shall include the following information:

- Date
- Location
- Time
- Topic of training
- Type of training (e.g., classroom, skills, non-interactive)
- Instructor(s) names
- Brief explanation of the training conducted
- Attending individuals' names/roster

5.8.4.2 Document Availability

Training documents, records, and reports shall be made readily available upon request from the firefighter, park structural fire program manager, park management, regional structural fire marshals, and the NPS Structural Fire Program.

5.8.4.3 Structural Firefighter Refresher

Every NPS firefighter, FADO, and fire officer shall attend a 24-hour structural firefighter refresher at least once every two years that includes live fire training. See Structural Firefighter Refresher SOP.

5.8.4.4 Live Fire Training

All live fire training shall comply with NFPA 1403 and the NPS Live Fire Training SOP.

Park structural fire programs are not permitted to perform live fire training evolutions in acquired structures or acquired props without prior approval from the NPS Structural Fire Program

*****NO PERSON(S) SHALL PLAY THE ROLE OF A VICTIM INSIDE ANY LIVE FIRE TRAINING STRUCTURE, PROP, OR ACQUIRED STRUCTURE.*****

*****FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS, AS DEFINED IN NFPA 30, FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS CODE, SHALL NOT BE USED IN LIVE FIRE TRAINING EVOLUTIONS.*****