

BEST PRACTICES FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, has developed recommended minimum training standards based on firefighter tasks or positions to provide guidance and promote best practices for firefighter training and education in the State of New York.

These best practices are applicable to all firefighters assigned to the tasks or positions listed below, including probationary firefighters appointed pursuant to section 58-a of the Civil Service Law who have not yet completed a certified basic fire training program that meets the requirements of 19 NYCRR Part 426. These best practices do not limit an Authority Having Jurisdiction from establishing training requirements which exceed the recommended minimum standards.

Exterior Firefighter: Establishes the minimum recommended training consistent with scene support functions for those firefighters assigned to tasks outside an Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) atmosphere. Completion of the following meets these recommended minimums: NYS Scene Support Operations course, NYS Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations course, National Incident Management System (NIMS) I-700 and I-100 courses, and basic first aid/CPR.

Interior Structural Firefighter: Establishes the minimum recommended training consistent with NFPA 1001 Firefighter I level for those firefighters assigned to interior structural firefighting tasks. Completion of the following meets the recommended minimums: NYS Firefighter I course or equivalent, National Incident Management System (NIMS) I-700 and I-100 courses, and basic first aid/CPR.

Apparatus Operator: Establishes the minimum recommended training for operators of any fire department vehicle. These minimums are consistent with the general requirements of Chapter 4 of NFPA 1002 Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications and can be met with completion of the NYS Apparatus Operator: Emergency Vehicle Operation course or equivalent and local training specific to the apparatus or vehicle to be operated. It is recommended that Apparatus Operators also complete the training indicated for Exterior Firefighter or Interior Structural Firefighter as appropriate to their assigned tasks.

Fire Officer: Establishes the requirements of NFPA 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, Chapter 4 Fire Officer I, sections 4.2 through 4.7, as the minimum recommended training for any fire officer. Completion of the NYS Fire Officer I (NFPA 1021 2009) course or equivalent meets these recommended minimums. It is recommended, where practical, that fire officers comply with the requirements of NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I in their entirety.

These best practices also include recommendations for the medical qualification of firefighters, annual in-service training, and additional training for fire officers beyond the company officer or first-line supervisory level.

Guidance regarding the applicable OSHA standard requirements for firefighters is included and cross referenced where appropriate.

These best practices are available here: www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/training/documents/training-best-practices.pdf



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