Technical Committee on Fire Officer Professional Qualifications

Report on Comment (NFPA 1021)

September 10, 2012
Conference Call (877) 320-2367 PIN 4892490
Live Meeting (Details to Follow)

11:00 AM ET

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Chair Larry Preston
2. Introduction of Members and Guests
3. Chair’s Remarks and Purpose of Meeting
4. Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting
5. Abstract review - Mark Gaillard
6. Committee Procedures – Staff Liaison Tom McGowan
   a. NFPA Codes and Standards Making Process - ROC
   b. Document Cycle Information
   c. NFPA Updates
7. Review of ROP – Technical Committee
   a. Review of Public Comments and Actions
   b. Committee Comments and Action
8. Adjourn at the Close of Business
9. Next Meeting
Technical Committee on
Fire Officer Professional Qualifications
Report on Proposals (NFPA 1021)
In-person and Conference Call/Live Meeting
January 26, 2012
NFPA Headquarters
One Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169
1-617-984-7480
8:00 AM ET

Minutes

Members present:
Larry Preston – Chair		Donald Waldron
Michael Athey		J. Warren Whitley
Richard Dunn		Tom McGowan – Staff Liaison
Manuel Fonseca
David Fulmer		Conference Call/Live Meeting:
Steven Gallagher	Matthew Brown
Randall Hanifen	Robert Fleming
Scott Kettelle	Michael Petroff
Timothy Robinson	Christopher Riley
Robert Singletary	Kenn Fontenot

Chair Larry Preston called the meeting to order at 8:00AM
Introduction of Members and Guests
Chair’s Remarks and Purpose of Meeting
Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
Committee Procedures – Staff Liaison Tom McGowan
   NFPA Codes and Standards Making Process - ROP
   ProQual JPR Format
   NFPA 1021 ROP Meeting
   Document Cycle Information (Committee requested hard copy)
Review of ROP – Technical Committee
   Nine (9) Public Proposals were heard and Actions taken
   Twenty-nine (29) Committee Proposals and Actions taken
   Note: Log # 8 referencing 6.1 was authored by Mr Preston. Mr Preston appointed Mr David Fulmer vice-chair. Mr Preston stepped down as chair while the proposal was deliberated. Once proposal was voted, Mr Preston returned as chair.
Next Meeting: TBA
Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:20PM
Key Dates in A2013 Revision Cycle

- **Comment Closing Date:** Aug 31, 2012
- **ROC Committee Meeting:** Week of Sept 10-14, 2012
- **TC ROC Ballot:** Oct 19, 2012
- **TCC Meeting:** Final Date Dec 14, 2012
- **TCC Ballot:** Dec 21, 2012
- **ROC Post and Publish:** Feb 22, 2012
- **Standards Council Issuance:** May 18, 2013
- **NITMAMs Closing Date:** May 5, 2013
- **NFPA Meeting:** June 9-13, 2013 Chicago, IL
- **Document issued w/CAMs:** Aug 1, 2013
Report On Comments Actions by Technical Committee A2013 Meetings

- **Accept (A)**
  - Comment accepted by committee without changes
  - No committee statement is required for an Accept, but one could be developed for clarification

- **Accept in Principle (APR)**
  - Committee agrees with proposed change in concept, and will Accept the comment, but makes changes to the wording
  - Committee must indicate reason for change and provide rationale in Committee Statement

- **Accept in Part (APA)**
  - Only part of the comment is Accepted
  - Committee must indicate what parts are accepted AND rejected and provide rationale in the Committee Statement

- **Accept in Principle and in Part (APP)**
  - Combination of Accept in Principle and Accept in Part
  - Committee must indicate what parts are accepted, rejected and changed and provide rationale in Committee Statement

- **Reject (R)**
  - Complete rejection of the entire comment
  - Committee must clearly indicate technical reasons for rejection on Committee Statement

- **Hold (H)**
  - A comment may be held for processing as a proposal during the next revision cycle if it:
    - Introduces a concept that has not had public review
    - Changes the text proposed by TC to the point that the TC would have to restudy the text of the report or other affected parts of the document
    - Proposes something that cannot be handled properly within the timeframe established for processing the report
Tom,

Very good to speak with you this afternoon. Thank you for assisting me in vetting an answer to the question of whether or not my research is useful to the NPFA 1021 Technical Committee. I’ve clipped my abstract and pasted it below for your consideration. I wish you safe travels and hope to discuss this with you in the coming weeks.

Thanks.
Mark Gaillard

ABSTRACT

This research examines the non-technical and public administration competencies required of fire chiefs with the express purpose of determining professional development areas for incumbent and prospective fire chiefs in the State of Arizona. The research was directed at identifying national standards for fire chiefs and public administrators, determining the knowledge, skills and abilities required of fire chiefs, and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of incumbent and prospective fire chiefs in Arizona. This social research considered the results of a literature review of relevant fire service, military, and both classic and contemporary business literature. The literature review drove a survey of city managers via the Arizona League of Cities and Towns and elected fire district board members via the Arizona Fire Districts Association regarding their observations of competencies of incumbent and prospective fire chiefs. The aggregate responses of the two population groups were analyzed to determine the five strengths: trustworthiness, ethical conduct, conscientiousness, commitment, and self confidence, and the five weaknesses: performance management, conflict management, leading change, leveraging diversity, and building bonds. The research concluded that a variance exists in the perception of fire chiefs’ competencies between city managers and elected fire district board members. Experience is an important part of growing capacity and there is no single source communicating the complete inventory of competencies necessary to be an effective fire chief. The research recommendations include: communicating the survey findings to the population groups surveyed, presenting the findings to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) technical committee that publishes the lone national standard for fire chiefs competencies to strengthen the suitability of the standard to guide professional development, and work with the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association to develop and strengthen programming to respond to the identified strengths and weaknesses of Arizona fire chiefs.

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Kelly Nicolello, Western Regional Fire Code Development Committee

Comment on Proposal No: 1021-13

Recommendation: Revise to read:

1.3.5* The fire officer at all levels of progression should matriculate and attain a regionally accredited degree from an institution of higher education as approved by the certifying organization.

Substantiation: The proposal is an important step to increase the professionalism of the fire service and give the Fire Officer the knowledge skills and abilities necessary to progress through the ranks of his organization. The committee needs to refine the scope of the degree the fire officer should have or should be striving for. Although a Bachelor of Arts degree in Romantic Languages may be a legitimate accomplishment for the fire officer, as an individual, that degree may not have a direct correlation to the skill sets trying to be developed to help the individual progress through the ranks of Fire Officer I through IV. Recognizing that most degrees of higher learning do have core competencies for written and verbal communications, math, and science components, the committee should include a phrase to allow the organization to determine if a degree has relevance to the level of certification the individual will be operating at.

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Michael L. Petroff, St. Louis, MO

Comment on Proposal No: 1021-13

Recommendation: Submitter: Christopher P. Riley, City of Pueblo Fire Department

Add text to read as follows:

Recommendation:
The Fire Officer Level 1 candidate will consider attaining an Associate Degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

Substantiation: The recommendation is consistent with the National Professional Development Model published by the National Fire Academy the credentialing components and requirements with the Fire Officer and Chief Fire Officer Designations, Commission on Professional Credentialing, Center for Public Safety Excellence. Further, many fire service organizations in recent years require this academic requirement for candidates who pursue Supervisory/Company Officer level promotion/rank.

Committee Meeting Action: Accept in Principle

1.3.5* The fire officer at all levels of progression should matriculate and attain a regionally accredited degree from an institution of higher education.

A.1.3.5 The Fire Officer I should be matriculated into a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

The Fire Officer II should attain an associate degree or equivalent hours in a baccalaureate at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

The Fire Officer III should attain baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

The Fire Officer IV should attain graduate level degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

Substantiation: The term "regionally" accredited has raised considerable discussion and may exclude quality educational institutions and may create undue hardship on FO candidates if such an institution is not easily accessible. The academic institution should be recognized by the United States Department of Education

This is not original material; its reference/source is as follows:
Struck through wording of NFPA 1021-2009 from Sebsite.
Submitter: Gary L. Bowker, Winfield Fire Dept.

Comment on Proposal No: 1021-13

Recommendation: Add text to read as follows:

The Fire Officer Level 1 candidate will consider attaining an Associate Degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

Substantiation: The recommendation is consistent with the National Professional Development Model published by the National Fire Academy the credentialing components and requirements with the Fire Officer and Chief Fire Officer Designations, Commission on Professional Credentialing, Center for Public Safety Excellence. Further, many fire service organizations in recent years require this academic requirement for candidates who pursue Supervisory/Company Officer level promotion/rank.

Committee Meeting Action: Accept in Principle

1.3.5* The fire officer at all levels of progression should matriculate and attain a regionally accredited degree from an institution of higher education.

A.1.3.5 The Fire Officer I should be matriculated into a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

The Fire Officer II should attain an associate degree or equivalent hours in a baccalaureate at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

The Fire Officer III should attain baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

The Fire Officer IV should attain graduate level degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

Substantiation: The term "regionally" accredited has raised considerable discussion and may exclude quality educational institutions and may create undue hardship on FO candidates if such an institution is not easily accessible.

The academic institution should be recognized by the United States Department of Education.
Submitter: Christopher P. Riley, City of Pueblo Fire Department

Comment on Proposal No: 1021-13

Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:
The Fire Officer Level 1 candidate will consider attaining an Associate Degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning (recognized by the United States Department of Education this institutional higher learning recognition should be applied to all levels of Fire Officer throughout this submittal).

Substantiation: The recommendation is consistent with the upcoming changes in the admissions criteria for the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program as well as the credentialing components and requirements with the Fire Officer and Chief Fire Officer Designations, Commission on Professional Credentialing, Center for Public Safety Excellence. Further, many fire service organizations in recent require this academic requirement for candidates who pursue Supervisory/Company Officer level promotion/rank.

Committee Meeting Action: Accept in Principle

1.3.5* The fire officer at all levels of progression should matriculate and attain a regionally accredited degree from an institution of higher education.

A.1.3.5 The Fire Officer I should be matriculated into a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
The Fire Officer II should attain an associate degree or equivalent hours in a baccalaureate at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
The Fire Officer III should attain baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
The Fire Officer IV should attain graduate level degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

Substantiation: The term "regionally" accredited has not been shown to be superior to "nationally" accredited institutions as the U.S. Department of Education publishes only one set of standards that must be met by all accrediting agencies and this criterion does not differentiate between the different types of accrediting agencies. The standard should only read that the academic institution should be accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. Likewise, the CPSE does not differentiate between types of accreditation in published requirements for Chief Fire Officer Designation. Limiting NFPA standards to only one type of accreditation could have an adverse impact on hundreds of fire officers seeking their education through credible on-line institutions that are both regionally and nationally accredited.
Submitter: William Hayes, Columbia Southern University
Comment on Proposal No: 1021-13
Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:
The Fire Officer Level 1 candidate will consider attaining an Associate Degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
Substantiation: The recommendation is consistent with the upcoming changes in the admissions criteria for the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program as well as the credentialing components and requirements with the Fire Officer and Chief Fire Officer Designations, Commission on Professional Credentialing, Center for Public Safety Excellence. Further, many fire service organizations in recent require this academic requirement for candidates who pursue Supervisory/Company Officer level promotion/rank.
Committee Meeting Action: Accept in Principle
Revise text to read as follows:
1.3.5* The fire officer at all levels of progression should matriculate and attain an regionally accredited degree from an institution of higher education.
A.1.3.5 The Fire Officer I should be matriculated into a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
The Fire Officer II should attain an associate degree or equivalent hours in a baccalaureate at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
The Fire Officer III should attain baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
The Fire Officer IV should attain graduate level degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
Substantiation: The term “regionally” accredited has not been shown to be superior to “nationally” accredited institutions as the U.S. Department of Education publishes only one set of standards that must be met by all accrediting agencies, and this criterion does not differentiate between the different types of accrediting agencies. The standard should only read that the academic institution should be accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. Likewise, the CPSE does not differentiate between types of accreditation in published requirements for Chief Fire Officer Designation. Limiting NFPA standards to only one type of accreditation could have an adverse impact on hundreds of fire officers seeking their education through credible institutions that are both regionally and nationally accredited. It is not the NFPA’s responsibility or scope to engage in accreditation standards. This should be left to the US Department of Education. Accreditation criterion can be found in the code of Federal Regulations entitled: 34 CFR Part 602-The Secretary’s Recognition of Accrediting Agencies. I would recommend that the NFPA become familiar with this code.

Submitter: Kelly Nicolello, Western Regional Fire Code Development Committee
Comment on Proposal No: 1021-10
Recommendation: Support the committee rejection.
Substantiation: As a fire officer I it is important that the individual been able to supervise, instruct, and give guidance to subordinates. It is inherent aspect of the position to evaluate firefighters and others in which they supervise and be having the skill set and knowledge to instruct and correct others in an effective manner. Not all Fire Officers rise up to the level of Fire Training Officers within their organizations, but they should know effective teaching techniques and be able to identify changes in behavior of their subordinates while giving instruction.