

NFPA Fire Protection Association - 1033

Suggested Course Guide – NFPA Fire Investigator 2009

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. This document was approved by the NFPA Fire Investigator Task Force.

**FIRE CERTIFICATION
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NFPA FIRE INVESTIGATOR SUGGESTED COURSE GUIDE

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) Fire Certification Program has created the following examples of current courses/classes which meet the requirements for NFPA Fire Investigator.

The suggested courses are **NOT** the only way to satisfy the requirements for certification. Therefore, other material may be evaluated as “Course Equivalency.” This must be accomplished through the evaluation of course curriculum and/or course outlines. The information provided will be reviewed to determine if it equal to or exceeds the intent of the standard.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide supporting information in conjunction with the application for review.

NOTE: All information must first be approved by the local training officer and/or fire chief before submission to the Fire Certification Program at DPSST.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ARE EXCERPTS FROM NFPA 1033, FIRE INVESTIGATOR, EDITION 2009

4.1 General.

4.1.1 The fire investigator shall meet the job performance requirements defined in Sections [4.2](#) through [4.7](#).

4.2 Scene Examination. Duties shall include inspecting and evaluating the fire scene, or evidence of the scene if the scene is no longer available, so as to determine the area or point of origin, source of ignition, material(s) ignited, and act or activity that brought ignition source and materials together and to assess the subsequent progression, extinguishment, and containment of the fire.

4.3 Documenting the Scene. Duties shall include diagramming the scene, photographing, and taking field notes to be used to compile a final report.

4.4 Evidence Collection/Preservation. Duties shall include using proper physical and legal procedures to retain evidence required within the investigation.

4.5 Interview. Duties shall include obtaining information regarding the overall fire investigation from others through verbal communication.

4.6 Post-Incident Investigation. Duties shall include the investigation of all factors beyond the fire scene at the time of the origin and cause determination.

4.7 Presentations. Duties shall include the presentation of findings to those individuals not involved in the actual investigations.

SUGGESTED COURSES:

- ✓ **Fire Investigation (DPSST Course Number 05F016)**
- ✓ **Fire Investigation (DPSST Course Number 07F019)**
- ✓ **Basic Fire Investigation - Level 100 and Level 200 (Office of State Fire Marshal, DPSST Course Numbers 10F018 and 10F019)**
- ✓ **Fire Investigation Classes – (Community Colleges Investigator Programs)**
- ✓ **Fire Arson Origin and Cause Investigation (National Fire Academy)**
- ✓ **Fire and Arson (Detection) Investigation – (National Fire Academy)**
- ✓ **International Association of Arson Investigation (IAAI) Advanced Fire and Arson Seminar – 1 week course**
- ✓ **Equivalent Courses/Classes (Must have proof of course equivalency through appropriate documentation)**

EXAMINATION AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

In order to successfully apply for certification as an NFPA Fire Investigator, you must **FIRST** complete all required course work prior to apply for DPPST certification.

OPTIONS I:

If the applicant has completed all required course work, the DPSST task book and hold a valid IAAI fire certification, you can successfully apply for certification with the Fire Certification Program at DPSST.

OPTION II:

If the applicant has completed all course work, the DPSST task book and **DOES NOT** hold the IAAI Fire Investigator certification, National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI), or Certified Fire Explosion Investigators (CFEI) certification; the applicant **MUST** take the DPSST Fire Investigation written examination and achieve at least a score of 70%.

The DPSST Fire Certification Program offers the examination on a quarterly basis. Please contact Tina Diehl at tina.diehl@state.or.us or by phone at 503-378-2254 for testing dates and information.

OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (OAR)

The following rules have been extracted from OAR Division 9 and only pertain only to the requirements for NFPA Fire Investigator. For review of OAR Division 9 please refer to http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_200/OAR_259/259_009.html.

259-009-0005

DEFINITIONS

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

259-009-0035

CERTIFICATES ARE PROPERTY OF DEPARTMENT

Certificates and awards are the property of the Department, and the Department shall have the power to revoke or recall any certificate or award as provided in the Act.

259-009-0062

FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION

(h) The provisions of the NFPA Standard No. 1033, Edition of (2009), entitled "Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator" are adopted subject to the following definitions and requirements:

(A) An individual must successfully complete a Department approved Task Book before the Department will administer a written examination for the Fire Investigator certification level. Exception: Anyone holding a valid IAAI Fire Investigator Certification, National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) certification, or Certified Fire Explosion Investigators (CFEI) certification is exempt from taking the Department's Fire Investigator written exam.

(B) A Department approved Field Training Officer must monitor the completion of a Task Book. The Field Training Officer must be certified at or above the level being monitored and have at least five (5) years fire investigation experience. Exception: The Department may approve a Field Training Officers with equivalent training, education and experience.