

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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**BULLETIN NO. 84**

**AUGUST 2006 (Reissued)**

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Bulletin No. 84 is a reissue of Old Bulletin No. 39 issued December 2005.

**MINIMUM TRAINING AND RECERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Section 1. Purpose**

To establish minimum training standards for Firefighters and Officers based on applicable national and local standards.

**Section 2. Applicability**

This standard applies to all personnel included in this Bulletin and establishes minimum training requirements for various personnel by assignment and/or certification level.

None of these training courses are required prior to assignment or promotion unless otherwise required by other applicable regulations, laws, or labor agreements. The intent of this Bulletin is to outline the training goals for the Department and the employee after assignment or promotion.

In addition, this Bulletin outlines re-certification goals the Department has for various employees by assignment and/or certification level.

It should be noted that additional training standards can and will be required by appropriate division heads as needed and approved by the Fire Chief to meet various industry training requirements and/or labor agreements.

**Section 3. Definitions**

**1. Awareness Level Training**

Technical Rescue - The level that represents the minimum capability needed to identify technical rescue emergencies and their hazards, and recognize the need for additional resources. Members trained to this level must be competent in recognizing the need for technical rescue operations, conducting a size-up, determining needed resources and scene management. Members will be able to begin an initial risk/benefit analysis based on the hazards and availability of trained personnel. Members trained to this level are generally not considered rescuers. Actions taken by responders at this level may place the rescuer at low risk.

Hazardous Materials - Members trained to this level are expected to recognize the presence of hazardous materials, protect themselves, call for trained personnel, and secure the area.

## **2. Operations Level Training**

Technical Rescue - The operations level represents the capability of hazard recognition, equipment use and techniques necessary to support a technical rescue incident. Members trained at this level may place the rescuer at low to moderate risk.

Hazardous Materials - Members trained to this level are expected to respond in a defensive fashion to control the release from a safe distance and keep it from spreading.

## **3. Technician Level Training**

Technical Rescue - This level represents the capability of hazard recognition, equipment use, and techniques necessary to safely and effectively coordinate, perform, and supervise a technical rescue incident. Operations conducted at the technician level may place the rescuer at moderate to high risk.

Hazardous Materials - Members trained to this level are expected to use specialized chemical protective clothing and specialized control equipment.

## **4. Hazardous Materials Specialist Level Training**

Members trained to this level are individuals whose duties parallel those of the Hazardous Materials Technician with a more directed or specific knowledge of the various substances they may be required to contain. They will also be trained to act as site liaison with Federal and local and other government authorities in regards to site activities and the local emergency response plan.

## **5. Hazardous Materials Command Level**

Members trained to this level are individuals who have met the competencies at the Hazardous Materials Operations Level and have been trained to meet the requirements of NFPA 472, Chapter 5. Technician and/or Specialist level training are NOT a prerequisite to this level of training.

## Section 4. NFPA and OSHA Standards

NFPA 472	Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents
NFPA 1001	Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications
NFPA 1003	Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications
NFPA 1006	Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications
NFPA 1021	Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications
NFPA 1031	Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner
NFPA 1033	Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator
NFPA 1035	Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator
NFPA 1041	Standard Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications
NFPA 1670	Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents
OSHA 1910.120	Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response
OSHA 1910.146	Permit-Required Confined Spaces

## Section 5. Policy

Members of the District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department will be trained to one or more of the following levels defined above, using those standards as guidelines.

### 1. All Personnel

Firefighter I and II  
Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations  
Diversity Training  
Right to Know/EEO/Harassment Training CPR  
and Infection Control

### 2. Officers Training Requirements

#### Sergeants/Lieutenants

Fire Officer I  
Fire Service Instructor I

**Captains**

Fire Officer II  
Fire Service Instructor II  
Hazardous Materials Incident Command

**Section 6. Training Required by Unit Assignment**

The following additional minimum training standards have been established for the following units, which are to be required after the assignment of the personnel to those units, unless otherwise required by other applicable regulations, laws or labor agreements.

**1. Rescue Squads, Fire Boat and Hazardous Materials Units**

Rope Rescue Technician Training  
Swiftwater Rescue Technician Training  
Confined Space Rescue Technician Training  
Hazardous Materials Technician Training  
Structural Collapse Rescue Technician Training  
Trench Rescue Technician Training

**2. Fire Boat Marine Engineers, Boat Operators and Pilots**

Rope Rescue Technician Training  
Swiftwater Rescue Technician Training  
Confined Space Rescue Technician Training  
Hazardous Materials Technician Training  
Structural Collapse Rescue Operations Training  
Trench Rescue Operations Training

**3. Hazardous Materials Task Force Companies**

Hazardous Materials Technician

**4. Foam Units and Foam Unit Task Force Companies**

Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Course

**5. Safety Officers**

Incident Safety Officer Course Health  
and Safety Officer Course

**6. Fire Prevention Division**

Minimum Qualifications – Fire Prevention Division

## **7. Fire Inspectors**

Fire Inspector I and II certification

## **8. Fire Investigator (Unarmed)**

Obtain and maintain certification as Fire Investigator (CFI) through designated examination and qualifications by the International Association Arson Investigators (IAAI) or other designated program meeting the requirements of NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator.

Fire Inspector I and II certification

## **9. Fire Investigator (Armed)**

Candidates must successfully complete training at the Metropolitan Police Department and/or other law enforcement training program.

Obtain and maintain certification as Fire Investigator (CFI) through designated examination and qualifications by the International Association Arson Investigators (IAAI) or other designated program meeting the requirements of NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator.

Fire Inspector I and II certification

## **10. Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I**

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I Certification  
Fire Service Instructor I and II

## **Section 7. Emergency Medical Service Training and Certification**

### **1. Basic Life Support Providers**

Certified Emergency Medical Technician Basic or Advanced CPR  
and Infection Control

### **2. Advanced Life Support Providers**

Certified Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic or Intermediate Paramedic  
Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Certification  
Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Certification  
Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Certification  
Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) Certification  
CPR and Infection Control

## **Section 8. Required Recertification**

### **1. All Personnel**

Hazardous Materials Awareness and/or Operations Refresher (Annually)  
CPR and Infection Control (Bi-annually)

### **2. Basic Life Support Providers (Bi-annually)**

Emergency Medical Technician – Basic Refresher  
CPR and Infection Control Refresher

### **3. Advanced Life Support Providers (Bi-annually)**

Paramedic Refresher (40 hours)  
Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Refresher (8 hours)  
Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Refresher (8 hours)  
Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Refresher (8 hours)  
Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) Refresher (8 hours)

### **4. Rescue Squads, Fire Boat, and Hazardous Materials Units (Annually)**

Hazardous Materials Technician Refresher  
Confined Space Refresher

Hazardous Materials Task Force Companies (Annually)

Hazardous Materials Technician Refresher

### **5. Foam Units and Foam Unit Task Force Companies (Annually)**

Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Refresher

## **Section 9. Annual Review**

This Bulletin shall be reviewed annually by the Deputy Fire Chief – Training Division, with recommendations for any required changes to the Fire Chief.