CERTIFICATION CURRICULUM MANUAL

CHAPTER TEN

INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER

NFPA 1550, 2024 Edition

Effective January 1, 2027

Texas Commission on Fire Protection
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COURSE OVERVIEW
Incident Safety Officer

The Incident Safety Officer is required to meet the Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) of Chapter 5 of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1550, *Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety*, 2024 edition.

In addition, NFPA 1550: Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety (2024 ed.) has other chapters that are referenced for this curriculum. Chapters 3 and 6-16, and also Annex A – Explanatory Material for Chapters 3 and 6-16 have been identified as required information for this curriculum.

The following items are included in Chapter 10 of this certification curriculum manual:

- Course Overview
- Course Outline (establishes the recommended hours for teaching this course)
- Reference List (textbooks and other recommended course materials)
- Equipment List
- Course Instructor Information
- Performance Skills List

This is a voluntary (non-mandatory) certification; therefore, a formal "curriculum" is not provided. Please use Chapter 5 of NFPA 1550 as a guide when creating your own course curriculum.

Performance skills are available in Chapter 10 of the Performance Skills Manual.

All documents in this curriculum manual, and in the skills manual, are available free of charge to download, copy and distribute as necessary. TCFP does not provide printed copies.

Definition of an Incident Safety Officer

An Incident Safety Officer is an individual who has met the requirements of Fire Officer Level I specified in NFPA 1020, *Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor, Fire Officer, and Emergency Medical Services Officer Professional Qualifications* and Chapter 5 of NFPA 1550, *Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety,* and has the knowledge, skills, and abilities to manage incident scene safety by having and maintaining a knowledge of:

- Fire suppression operations
- Technical rescue operations
- Hazardous materials operations
- Building construction
- Fire science and behavior relative to predicting hostile fire events
- The Incident Command System
- The fire department's personnel accountability system
- Incident scene rehabilitation strategies

- The accident investigation and review process
- Post-Incident analysis procedures

Additional Incident Safety Officer duties include:

- Risk evaluation
- Resource evaluation
- Hazard identification and communication
- Action plan review
- Safety briefings
- Collapse zoning
- Safety committee participation

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

SECTION	SUBJECT	RECOMMENDED HOURS
5.1	General	2
5.2	General Requirements	12
5.3	Fire Suppression Operations	10
5.4	Technical Search and Rescue Operations	6
5.5	Hazardous Materials Operations	6
5.6	Accident Investigations and Review	6
5.7	Post-Incident Analysis (PIA)	6
	TOTAL RECOMMENDED HOURS*	**48**

* Actual hours required will depend on the number of students, the number of examiners, availability of equipment, and the student skill level. Time for performance skill testing is included in the recommended hours.

REFERENCE LIST

This Reference List is provided as a general guide for both instructors and students to locate information pertaining to the specific objectives in the TCFP Curriculum. This list is not all inclusive and does not in any way limit TCFP development and use of questions to test the objectives of the curriculum:

Required References

Certified Training Facilities approved to teach this curriculum must have the following reference materials:

Fire Department Incident Safety Officer, (4th ed.) (2025). Reeder, Forest. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

NFPA 1550: *Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety*, (2024 ed.). Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications

Standards Manual for Fire Protection Personnel, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Fire Protection

Recommended References

The most current edition of the following publications is recommended (not required) supplemental material for program use.

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29 Part 1910.120. United States. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29 Part 1910.146. United States. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

NFPA 470: *Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders*. (2022 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

NFPA 1006: *Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications*. (2027 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

NFPA 1584: *Standard on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises*. (2022 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

NFPA 1750: *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Services, Special Operations, and Fire Prevention Activities*. (2026 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

NFPA 1950: *Standard on Personal Protective Equipment for Technical Rescue Incidents, Emergency Medical Operations, and Wildland and Urban Interface Firefighting*. (2025 ed.). Quincy, MA: NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association NFPA Publications.

EQUIPMENT LIST

- AHJ SOPs and training materials
- Radios
- Scene marking equipment
- Preplan
- An IAP that includes situation and resource status information
- A structure fire scenario which must include:
  - A working structure fire with an IDLH atmosphere.
  - A Command Post with an Incident Commander and established ICS structure.
  - Use of an accountability system.
  - An establishment of a RIC.
  - The need for control zones.
  - An uncontrolled hazardous energy source.
  - A potential building collapse or partial building collapse.
  - An operation with imminent threat to firefighter safety which must be stopped, altered or suspended.
  - The need for responder rehabilitation.
  - The need for decontamination procedures
  - A transfer of ISO duties.
- A wildland fire scenario which must include:
  - A wildland fire with multiple resources assigned.
  - A Command Post with an Incident Commander and established ICS structure.
  - Use of an accountability system.
  - The need for control zones.
  - A potential for fire blow up based on fuel, topography or weather.
  - An operation with imminent threat to firefighter safety which must be stopped, altered or suspended.
  - The need for responder rehabilitation.
  - A transfer of ISO duties.
- A motor vehicle rescue scenario which must include:
  - A motor vehicle rescue incident with multiple resources assigned including a helicopter.
  - Motor vehicle incident hazards.
  - A Command Post with an Incident Commander and established ICS structure.
  - Use of an accountability system.

  - The need for control zones.
  - An uncontrolled hazardous energy source.
  - An operation with imminent threat to firefighter safety which must be stopped, altered or suspended.
  - An atypical stressful event that causes signs and symptoms which indicate that members' physiological health must be protected.
  - The need for responder rehabilitation.
  - A transfer of ISO duties.
- A technical search and rescue scenario. This scenario must include any of the following operations:
  - Rope Rescue – High Angle or Low Angle
  - Confined Space Rescue
  - Trench Rescue
  - Structural Collapse
  - Dive Rescue
  - Water Rescue/Swift Water Rescue/Surf Rescue
  - Vehicle Rescue/Machinery Rescue
- An incident scenario which must include:
  - An event that caused injury, death or property damage
  - Items that may be considered evidence
  - Multiple individuals associated with the event
- An incident scenario from which a written PIA will be created
- A hazardous materials incident scenario
- ICS Form 215A or equivalent
- ICS Form 208HM or equivalent
- Forms for safety investigation documentation
- Forms used for creating a formal PIA structure
- Safety data sheets and topographical information, blueprints, and building drawings, as applicable for the technical search and rescue and hazardous materials scenarios

COURSE INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor Qualifications

Incident Safety Officer courses must be taught by a person meeting the requirements described in Chapter §427.307 of the TCFP Standards Manual.

Supplemental Information

Instructors are expected to provide supplemental information if the main reference text does not cover all of the knowledge requirements set forth in the NFPA standard.

Certification Testing

Testing for certification in the state of Texas will be based on the knowledge and skills requirements of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1550, *Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety,* 2024 edition. All training programs must strictly adhere to the NFPA standard.

All test questions and performance skills evaluations will be based on the NFPA Job Performance Requirements (JPRs), requisite knowledge objectives, and requisite skills objectives found in the NFPA standard. Additionally, questions and performance skill evaluations may include information found in, or derived from, the NFPA standard annex, particularly Annex A, which includes explanatory material that may further clarify JPRs. The following is an example from NFPA 1550, section 5.3.1:

NFPA Standard/Curriculum		Explanation
5.3.1	Determine incident environmental and operational factors and confirm the establishment of rapid intervention crew (RIC) and evaluate the need to increase RIC capability, given an incident or planned event that includes one or more immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) elements, responders engaged in tactical operations, a pre-assigned RIC, and an IAP, so that a recommendation is offered to the IC.	NFPA JPR number 5.3.1
	(A) Requisite Knowledge: RIC criteria for Chapters 6 through 21 of this standard, NFPA 1710, NFPA 1720, AHJ SOP/Gs, and directives for RIC establishment and use.	Requisite knowledge objectives for 5.3.1 Written test questions and/or performance skills will be used to test these knowledge components on the state certification exam.
	(B) Requisite Skills: Interpret applicable regulations, guidelines, procedures, and consensus standards for implementation at incidents; audit conditions to ensure policies are being followed; and formulate	Requisite skills objectives for 5.3.1 Only performance

recommendations for incident command action.	skills will be used to test these objectives on the state certification exam.
Instructor Note A.5.3.1 The intention of this requirement is that the ISO check to see that the IC has established a rapid intervention team. In cases where this has not happened, the ISO should inform the IC of the need.	Annex A: Explanatory Material for 5.3.1

NFPA Annex B Information
Refer to *Annex B: Explanation of the Professional Qualifications Standards and Concepts of JPRs* in the NFPA Standard for an explanation of the NFPA Professional Qualifications Standards, the concepts of JPRs, and the process for converting JPRs into instructional objectives.

Requisite Skills
NFPA Requisite Skill requirements are addressed in the corresponding Performance Skill Sheets in Chapter 10 of the TCFP Performance Skills Manual.

TCFP Standards Manual
It is critical that the Course Instructor review the chapters in the TCFP Standards Manual that apply to this curriculum. Of primary importance are the following chapters:

Chapter 421, *Standards for Certification*
Chapter 427, *Training Facility Certification*
Chapter 435, *Fire Fighter Safety*
Chapter 437, *Fees*
Chapter 439, *Examinations for Certification*
Chapter 457, *Incident Safety Officer Certification*

These chapters do not address every issue that could impact this curriculum; therefore, the Course Instructor is encouraged to become familiar with the TCFP Standards Manual.

Descriptions of Certification Levels
For additional information, see Chapter 457 of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Standards Manual for Fire Protection Personnel.

PERFORMANCE SKILLS LIST

Subject / Category	Skill #	Skill Name	NFPA 1550 JPR #
General Requirements	1	Role of ISO: Structure Fire	5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4, 5.2.5, 5.2.6, 5.2.7, 5.2.9, 5.2.10, 5.2.13, 5.2.14, 5.2.15, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4, 5.3.6
	2	Role of ISO: Wildland Fire	5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4, 5.2.5, 5.2.6, 5.2.7, 5.2.9, 5.2.10, 5.2.14, 5.3.5
	3	Role of ISO: Motor Vehicle Rescue Incident	5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4, 5.2.5, 5.2.6, 5.2.7, 5.2.8, 5.2.9, 5.2.10, 5.2.11, 5.2.12, 5.2.13
Technical Search and Rescue Operations	4	Safety Plan: Search and Rescue	5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3
Hazardous Materials Operations	5	Safety Plan: Hazmat	5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.5.3, 5.5.4
Accident Investigations and Review	6	Health and Safety Investigation	5.6.1
Post-Incident Analysis (PIA)	7	Post-Incident Analysis	5.7.1, 5.7.2

Performance skills are available in Chapter 10 of the Performance Skills Manual.

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