

## April 23, 2026 CURRICULUM & TESTING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

At 9:07 a.m. on April 23, 2026, Presiding Officer, Pat McAuliff, called the meeting of the Curriculum & Testing (C&T) Committee to order at 4800 N. Lamar, Austin, Texas 78756.

**Attending:** Pat McAuliff Robert (Louie) Havens Jonathan Tunnel\* Douglas Matthijetz Chris Watson  
Samuel Baucom Chuck French Dustin Brown Harold (Buddy) Rice Jacob Smith  
Megan Schuth

**Liaison:** Daniel DeYear\*

\*Excused absence

**Staff:** Holden Wenger Charai Fernandez Dan Reed\* Victoria Olivas Tim Gardner\*  
Kenneth (Ashley) Barnett

1. Roll call and excuse absence of Committee members. The meeting of the C&T Committee was called to order at 9:07 AM on April 23, 2026. The roll was called and a quorum was present. A motion was made by Louie Havens to excuse the absence of Daniel DeYear and Jonathan Tunnel. The motion was seconded by Chris Watson. The motion carried. Jacob Smith was late to the meeting, His presence was acknowledged when he arrived at 9:29 AM.

2. Approval of Committee meeting minutes from the October 22, 2025 meeting. Chuck French made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 22, 2026 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Louie Havens. The motion carried.

3. Discussion and possible action related to curriculum matters including, but not limited to, reference materials, outlines, instructor information, equipment lists, modifications, NFPA Standards correlation, objectives, skill sheets, and creation and modification of ad-hoc committees for:

- a. Basic Fire Suppression
- b. Basic Aircraft Rescue Fire Suppression
- c. Basic Marine Fire Suppression
- d. Inspector
- e. Plan Examiner
- f. Fire Investigator
- g. Hazardous Materials
- h. Driver/Operator
- i. Fire Instructor
- j. Fire Officer
- k. Incident

- a. Sam Baucom reported that the Basic Fire Suppression Committee is working on test questions and skills. The committee plans to be done with updates by the end of summer 2026, with an effective date of January 1, 2027 being the goal.
- b. It was determined that some changes need to be made in both the curriculum and the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) to reflect the changed verbiage of the 1010 NFPA standard. It also has a target effective date of January 1, 2027.
- c. Doug Matthijetz gave an update on the Basic Marine Fire Suppression Committee who are still working on completing the updates needed to meet the 1010 NFPA standard. Their next meeting is in May.
- d. The Inspector curriculum was updated and went into effect in March 2026. Discussion was had about the required AED training.
- e. The Plans Examiner Committee has completed all curriculum updates and will be addressed in a later agenda item.
- f. The Fire Investigator curriculum was updated and went into effect in August 2025.
- g. Louie Havens said that the Hazardous Materials Ad Hoc committee is still working on test questions.
- h. Chris Watson has been working on revising the Driver/Operator curriculum and updates have been completed. The Ad Hoc committee is now working on reviewing test questions. Their goal is to have an effective date of January 1, 2027.
- i. Chris Watson spoke about the Fire Instructor Committee, who are meeting in the last week of April to continue working on updates to the curriculum.
- j. Chris Watson reported that the Ad Hoc committee is currently working on updating skills and their next meeting is scheduled for May.
- k. Chris Watson reported the Incident Safety Officer Committee found very little changes to the curriculum and will begin reviewing test questions in future meetings. Their goal is to have an effective date of January 1, 2027.
- l. Pat McAuliff stated that the Wildland Firefighter Committee has created a Summary of Changes document and is working on updates to the curriculum.
- m. Doug Matthijetz reported that he reviewed the skills document that staff has been working on and reported that some of its content is outdated and needs revision. To be reviewed by Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) staff.
- n. The Fire and Life Safety Educator curriculum was updated and went into effect in March 2026.
- o. The Incident Commander curriculum was updated and has an effective date of May 1, 2026.

<p>Safety Officer l. Wildland Firefighter m. Head of Department n. Fire and Life Safety Educator o. Incident Commander p. Fire Marshal q. Rope Rescue r. Emergency Manager s. Water Rescue t. Test Question Ad Hoc u. Any other related disciplines</p>	<p>p. The Fire Marshal curriculum was updated and went into effect in November 2025. A Summary of Changes was reviewed and added to the website.</p> <p>q. It was determined that a new Ad Hoc Committee will need to be established for Rope Rescue. Louie Havens made a motion to establish a new committee and allow applications to be accepted. The motion was seconded by Sam Baucom. The motion carried.</p> <p>r. Louie Havens gave an update on the Emergency Manager Committee who are having meetings virtually. They hope to be completed by the end of the year.</p> <p>s. Sam Baucom reported that the Water Rescue Ad Hoc Committee is actively working on creating this curriculum. The committee has experienced some challenges in the effort to comply with the 1006 NFPA standard, but they have been reaching out to other states for guidance and have a plan for moving forward.</p> <p>t. Megan Schuth was added to one of the previously appointed Test Question Ad Hoc committees.</p> <p>u. The group reviewed a chart depicting the monthly average exam scores over the last year. It was noted that there was a dip in scores from January to March with the Rope Rescue scores. Holden Wenger explained that those months were the transition from the grandfather period and the beginning of the course. Other possible issues to be discussed during Executive Session.</p>
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<p>4. Matters referred to the Curriculum and Testing Committee by the TCFP Testing Department. a. Discussion and possible action on the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Field Examiner course and certification.</p>	<p>a. Pat McAuliff gave the update that Ashley Barnett has been working on the Field Examiner course and making updates to it. Ashley Barnett spoke about some of the changes being made to add new curriculums, clean up old ones, and updating verbiage and formatting. No action was taken.</p> <p>b. Ashley Barnett provided documents showing new accommodations policy and where to access it. FIDO will soon have features where students can apply for accommodations virtually. No action was taken.</p> <p>c. Discussion was had about the problems being faced when rolling out certifications that have a prerequisite. The committee agreed that this will not be a problem going forward, as any potential issues will be caught and evaluated ahead of time per NFPA. No action was taken.</p> <p>d. Discussion was had about the previously updated table and it was determined that it did not need to be addressed at this time. No further discussion or action was taken.</p>
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b. Discussion and possible action regarding the new policy on accommodations testing.

c. Discussion and possible action on the duration of Grandfather periods.

d. Discussion and possible action on §439.19(b).

5. Discussion and possible action on Texas Administrative Code Rule §421.3.

It was discussed that Driver Operator Aerial and Incident Commander are missing from the rule as well as needed verbiage updates to Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, to align with NFPA 1010, and Plans Examiner, to align with NFPA 1030. Recommended changes to certifications and the TAC to be evaluated and presented again during the next meeting. No action was taken.

6. Discussion and possible action on Texas Administrative Code Rule §429.

Changes were made to reflect the terminology that is in NFPA 1030. Inspector I and Inspector II were combined into Inspector, and Plan Examiner was changed to Fire Plans Examiner. A motion was made by Louie Havens to accept these changes. The motion was seconded by Chuck French. The motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action on restructuring skills for Basic Fire Suppression exams.

Discussion was had regarding the number of skills that would be required for Basic Fire Suppression exams. The committee decided no action needed to be taken at this time. The item was tabled.

8. Discussion and possible action on 1010 Aircraft Rescue

The committee reviewed updates made to the Aircraft Rescue Firefighter curriculum. Updates to the TAC to be addressed during the next meeting. A motion was made by Louie Havens to accept the changes to the curriculum once minor edits have been made. The motion was seconded by Jacob Smith. The motion carried. Committee went into recess from 10:05am to 10:14am due to technology issues.

Firefighter updates.

9. Discussion and possible action on 1030 Plan Examiner updates. The committee reviewed updates made to the Plans Examiner curriculum. A tentative effective date of September 1, 2026 was discussed. A motion was made by Buddy Rice to accept the changes to the curriculum. The motion was seconded by Louie Havens. The motion carried.

10. Subjects for future Curriculum and Testing Committee meeting agendas. It was discussed that the agenda for the July meeting would need to include TAC 421, TAC 423, and TAC 439.

11. (Executive session): Matters regarding test results, development, IFSAC issues, and review of test questions. The committee entered Executive Session at 10:45am on April 23, 2026. The committee came out of Executive Session at 12:50pm on April 23, 2026. No action was taken.

15. Adjourn meeting. Doug Matthijetz motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jacob Smith. The motion carried.

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Pat McAuliff, Presiding Officer