

**FIRE FIGHTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING****June 12, 2025, 9:00 A.M.****4800 N. Lamar Boulevard, North Lamar Boulevard Bldg., Room 140, Austin, Texas****The Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting will be held in person at the location above.**

- 1. Roll call and excuse of absences, if any, of Committee members.**
- 2. Adoption of the December 5, 2024, Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting minutes (with updated changes) and the March 27, 2025, Fire Fighter Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.**
- 3. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 423, Fire Suppression.**
- 4. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 427, Training Facility Certification.**
- 5. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 431, Fire Investigator.**
- 6. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 433, Driver/Operator.**
- 7. Review and Discussion of the 2024 Injury Report.**
- 8. Future Meeting Dates.**
- 9. Future Meeting Agenda Items.**
- 10. Adjourn.**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 1**

1. **Roll call and excuse of absences, if any, of Committee members.**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 2**

2. **Adoption of the December 5, 2024, Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting minutes (with updated changes) and the March 27, 2025, Fire Fighter Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. (See Attached)**

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION  
FIRE FIGHTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Presiding officer Daniel DeYear called the meeting of the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee to order at 9:15 a.m. on March 27, 2025 at the North Lamar Boulevard Building, 4800 N. Lamar Boulevard, in Austin, Texas.

Committee Member Attendance:

Daniel DeYear	Daniel Anderson*	Vince Abrigo	Antonio Ramos
Ty Prange	Shane Parker	Michael Silva	Robert VanDine
Robert Ainsworth	Charles Edwards	William Crews	

\*Excused absence

1. Roll Call – Secretary Antonio Ramos called roll, and a quorum was present. A motion was made by Antonio Ramos and seconded by William Crews to excuse the absence of Daniel Anderson. The motion carried.
2. Adoption of minutes – A motion was made by Robert VanDine and seconded by Shane Parker to excuse the absences of Skyler Ainesworth and Michael Silva from the December 5, 2024 FFAC Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Motion by William Crews, seconded by Michael Silva, to remove Charles Edwards and William Crews from showing attendance at the December 5, 2024 FFAC Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.
3. New Member Training – the overview of Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) authority, rulemaking, staffing, and agency structure was presented by Agency Chief Mike Wisko.
4. Review of the Selection Committee Process - the review of Committee Member term limits and appointment cycles, and TCFP Sunset Review updates was presented by Agency Chief Mike Wisko.
5. Review of TCFP certifications – Agency Chief Mike Wisko gave an overview of all TCFP certifications.

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6. Agency Update - Presented by Agency Chief Mike Wisko regarding TCFP bills before the Texas Legislature and Presiding Officer Daniel DeYear gave a plaque to Jim Reidy in recognition of his service.
7. Discussion of Recent Improvements to the Injury Reporting System - TCFP Public Information Officer Grace Wilson presented the new reporting interface for the Injury Reporting System which became live as of Jan 1, 2025.
8. Update on NFPA Changes on enforcing 1970 - Agency Chief Mike Wisko and Jim Reidy discussed updated compliance deadlines for PPE (Sept 2025) and SCBA (Mar 2026) based on availability by the manufacturers.
9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 423, Fire Suppression - Motion by William Crews and seconded by Mike Silva to table the rule review of Rule 423.1 until legal research is done and advice from an ad-hoc committee is relayed at the next meeting. Motion carried.
10. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 TAC, Chapter 425, Fire Service Instructors - Motion by Shane Parker and seconded by Robert VanDine to revise 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 425.1(a) to include “or its successor.” Motion carried
11. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 TAC, Chapter 427, Training Facility Certification - Motion by Robert VanDine and seconded by Vince Abrigo to table discussion of Chapter 427 until the next meeting. Motion carried.
12. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 TAC, Chapter 429, Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner - Motion by William Crews and seconded by Robert VanDine to send Chapter 429 to the Commissioners with no changes. Motion carried
13. Future Meeting Dates - Future meeting dates are confirmed: September 25, 2025 and December 4, 2025.

14. Subjects for future meeting agenda items-

The following topics were presented for future agenda items:

- Continued review of Chapter 423 legal language,
- continued tracking of NFPA 1970 adoption,
- Continued review of Chapter 427 revision discussion, and
- training access evaluations.

15. Adjourn -

A motion was made by Antonio Ramos and second by Robert Van Dine to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

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Presiding Officer

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Date

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION**

Presiding officer Daniel DeYear called the December 05, 2024, meeting of the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. at the North Lamar Boulevard Building, 4800 N. Lamar Boulevard, in Austin, Texas.

Member Attendance: Amended per the March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.

Daniel DeYear	Daniel Anderson	Vince Abrigo	Antonio Ramos
Tye Prange	Shane Parker	Michael Silva*	Robert VanDine
Robert Ainsworth*			

\*Excused absence

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Staff present:

Frank King	Sami Lepisto	Cliff Grant	Yazzy Chavez
Rick Wallace	Joyce Guinn	Mike Wisko	Grace Wilson

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1. Roll Call – Secretary, Antonio Ramos called roll, and a quorum was present.

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2. Committee member training – Agency Chief, Mike Wisko delivered the committee member training.

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3. Adoption of minutes – A motion was made by Daniel Anderson and seconded by Shane Parker to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2024, Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting. The motion carried.

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4. Discussion and possible action on the rule review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 423, Fire Suppression - A motion was made by Shane Parker, seconded by Daniel Anderson, to table further discussions regarding the rule review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 423, Fire Suppression, to allow for additional research and analysis on the chapter. The motion was carried.

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5. Discussion and possible action on the rule review of 37 TAC, Chapter 425, Fire Service Instructors- A motion was made by Shane Parker and seconded by Robert Van-Dine to table for further discussions and additional research. The motion carried.

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6. Subjects for future meeting agenda items-

- I. Discussion on Committee Member Orientation Processes.
  - II. Comprehensive Review of All Certifications.
  - III. 37 TAC, Chapter 423, Fire Suppression.
  - IV. 37 TAC, Chapter 425, Fire Service Instructors.
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7. Future meeting dates – The committee confirmed the 2025 meeting dates for:

- March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>
- June 12<sup>th</sup>
- September 25<sup>th</sup>
- December 4<sup>th</sup>

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8. Adjourn meeting – A motion was made by Antonio Ramos and seconded by Daniel Anderson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

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**X**

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Daniel DeYear  
Presiding Officer

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3**

- 3. Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 423, Fire Suppression. (See attached)**

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: As in effect on 3/4/2025.

## **TITLE 37 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS**

### **PART 13 TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION**

#### **CHAPTER 423 FIRE SUPPRESSION**

##### **SUBCHAPTER A MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR STRUCTURE FIRE PROTECTION PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION**

###### **§423.1. Minimum Standards for Structure Fire Protection Personnel.**

(a) Fire protection personnel who are appointed to structure fire protection duties must be certified by the commission within one year from the date of their appointment.

(b) Prior to being appointed to structure fire protection duties, personnel must:

(1) complete a commission approved basic structure fire protection program; and

(2) successfully pass the commission examination as required by §423.3 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and

(3) successfully complete a commission recognized emergency medical training program. The commission recognizes the following emergency medical training:

(A) Department of State Health Services Emergency Medical Service Personnel certification training;

(B) an American Red Cross Emergency Response course, including the optional lessons and enrichment sections;

(C) an American Safety and Health Institute First Responder course;

(D) National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification; or

(E) medical training deemed equivalent by the commission.

(c) Personnel holding any level of structure fire protection personnel certification must comply with the continuing education requirements specified in Chapter 441 of

this title (relating to Continuing Education).

**§423.3. Minimum Standards for Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

In order to be certified as Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel, an individual must:

(1) possess valid documentation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2008 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements specified in §439.1 of this title (relating to Requirements--General) as:

(A) Fire Fighter I, Fire Fighter II, Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel; and

(B) Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders including the Mission-Specific Competencies for Personal Protective Equipment and Product Control under the current edition; or

(C) NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Operations prior to the 2008 edition; and

(D) meet the medical requirements outlined in §423.1 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Structure Fire Protection Personnel); or

(2) complete a commission-approved basic structure fire protection program, meet the medical requirements outlined in §423.1 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Structure Fire Protection Personnel), and successfully pass the commission examination(s) as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved basic structure fire suppression program shall consist of one or any combination of the following:

(A) completion of a commission-approved Basic Fire Suppression Curriculum, as specified in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or

(B) completion of an out-of-state, and/or military training program deemed equivalent to the commission-approved Basic Fire Suppression Curriculum; or

(C) documentation of the receipt of a Fire Fighter II certificate, an advanced certificate, or confirmation of training from the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas that is deemed equivalent to a commission-approved Basic Fire Suppression Curriculum.

### **§423.5. Minimum Standards for Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold, as a prerequisite, a Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification as defined in §423.3 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of four years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:

(A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1, with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

### **§423.7. Minimum Standards for Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold as a prerequisite an Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification as defined in §423.5 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of eight years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:

(A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

### **§423.9. Minimum Standards for Master Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Master Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold as a prerequisite an Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification as defined in §423.7 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of twelve years of fire protection experience, and 60 college semester hours or an associate degree, which includes at least 18 college semester hours in fire science subjects.

(b) College level courses from both the upper and lower division may be used to satisfy the education requirement for Master Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.

#### **§423.11. Higher Levels of Certification.**

(a) An individual may receive higher levels of certification in structure fire protection while being assigned to another discipline, provided all requirements for the higher level or levels of certification are met.

(b) Repetitive training cannot be used toward higher levels of certification.

#### **§423.13. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAAC) Seal.**

(a) Individuals completing a commission-approved basic structure fire protection program, meeting any other NFPA requirement, and passing the applicable commission examination(s) may be granted IFSAC seal(s) for Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel, Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders (including the Mission-Specific Competencies for Personal Protective Equipment and Product Control), Fire Fighter I, and/or Fire Fighter II by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal(s) and paying applicable fees, provided they meet the following provisions:

(1) To receive the IFSAC Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel seal, the individual must:

(A) complete the Hazardous Materials Awareness section of a commission-approved course; and

- (B) pass the Hazardous Materials Awareness section of a commission examination.
- (2) To receive the IFSAC Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders seal (including the Mission-Specific Competencies for Personal Protective Equipment and Product Control) the individual must:
- (A) complete the Hazardous Materials Operation section of a commission-approved course; and
  - (B) document possession of an IFSAC Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel seal; and
  - (C) pass the Hazardous Materials Operations section of a commission examination.
- (3) To receive the IFSAC Fire Fighter I seal, the individual must:
- (A) complete a commission-approved Fire Fighter I course; and
  - (B) provide medical documentation as outlined in subsection (b) of this section; and
  - (C) document possession of an IFSAC Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel seal; and
  - (D) document possession of an IFSAC Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders seal; and
  - (E) pass the Fire Fighter I section of a commission examination.
- (4) To receive the IFSAC Fire Fighter II seal, the individual must:
- (A) complete a commission-approved Fire Fighter II course; and
  - (B) document possession of an IFSAC Fire Fighter I seal; and
  - (C) pass the Fire Fighter II section of a commission examination.
- (b) In order to qualify for a Fire Fighter I seal, the individual must document successful completion of an emergency medical training course or program that includes those subject areas required by NFPA 1001.
- (c) In order to qualify for an IFSAC seal an individual must submit the application for the seal prior to the expiration of the examination.

## **SUBCHAPTER B MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING PERSONNEL**

### **§423.201. Minimum Standards for Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel.**

- (a) Aircraft rescue fire fighting personnel are employees of a local governmental entity who are appointed to aircraft rescue fire fighting duties. These duties may include fighting aircraft fires at airports, standing by for potential crash landings, and performing aircraft rescue and fire fighting duties.
- (b) Personnel appointed to aircraft rescue fire fighting duties must be certified by the commission within one year from the date of their appointment.
- (c) Prior to being appointed to aircraft rescue fire fighting duties, all personnel must:
  - (1) successfully complete a commission approved basic structure fire protection program and pass the commission's examination; and
  - (2) successfully complete a commission approved basic aircraft rescue firefighting program and pass the commission's examination.
- (d) "Stand by" means the act of responding to a designated position in the movement area on the airfield at which initial response fire and rescue units will await the arrival of an aircraft experiencing an announced emergency.
- (e) "Movement area" is comprised of all runways, taxiways, and other areas of the airport which are used for taxiing or hover taxiing, take-off, and landing of aircraft, exclusive of loading ramps and aircraft parking areas.
- (f) Personnel holding any level of aircraft rescue fire fighting personnel certification shall be required to comply with the continuing education specified in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education).
- (g) Aircraft rescue fire fighting personnel that perform structure fire protection duties must be certified, as a minimum, as basic structure fire protection personnel.

### **§423.203. Minimum Standards for Basic Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel Certification.**

In order to be certified as Basic Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, an individual must:

- (1) hold a Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification; and
- (2) possess valid documentation as an Airport Fire Fighter from either:
  - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
  - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2010 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements specified in §439.1 of this title (relating to Requirements-General); or
- (3) complete a commission approved aircraft rescue fire fighting program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved aircraft rescue fire fighting program shall consist of one of the following:
  - (A) a commission approved Basic Aircraft Rescue Fire Suppression Curriculum as specified in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or
  - (B) an out-of-state, and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceeds the commission approved Basic Aircraft Rescue Fire Suppression Curriculum.

**§423.205. Minimum Standards for Intermediate Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel Certification.**

- (a) Applicants for Intermediate Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:
  - (1) hold as a prerequisite a Basic Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel certification as defined in §423.203 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel Certification); and
  - (2) acquire a minimum of four years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:
    - (A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

#### **§423.207. Minimum Standards for Advanced Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Advanced Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold as a prerequisite an Intermediate Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel certification as defined in §423.205 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Intermediate Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of eight years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:

(A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

#### **§423.209. Minimum Standards for Master Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Master Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold, as a prerequisite, an Advanced Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel certification as defined in §423.207 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Advanced Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of twelve years of fire protection experience, and 60 college semester hours or an associate's degree, which includes at least 18 college semester hours in fire science subjects.

(b) College level courses from both the upper and lower division may be used to satisfy the education requirement for Master Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel Certification.

#### **§423.211. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.**

Individuals completing a commission approved basic aircraft rescue fire fighting program, documenting an IFSAC seal for Fire Fighter II, and passing the applicable commission examination may be granted an IFSAC seal as an Airport Fire Fighter by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees.

In order to qualify for an IFSAC seal, an individual must submit the application for the seal prior to the expiration of the examination.

## **SUBCHAPTER C MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR MARINE FIRE PROTECTION PERSONNEL**

### **§423.301. Minimum Standards for Marine Fire Protection Personnel.**

- (a) Marine fire protection personnel are employees of a local governmental entity who work aboard a fire boat with a minimum pumping capacity of 2,000 gallons per minute, and fight fires that occur on or adjacent to a waterway, waterfront, channel, or turning basin.
- (b) Fire protection personnel appointed to marine fire protection duties must be certified by the commission within one year from the date of their appointment.
- (c) Prior to being appointed to marine fire protection duties, all personnel must:
  - (1) successfully complete a commission approved basic structure fire protection program and pass the commission's examination; and
  - (2) successfully complete a commission approved basic marine fire protection program and pass the commission's examination.
- (d) Personnel holding any level of Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification shall be required to comply with the continuing education specified in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education).

### **§423.303. Minimum Standards for Basic Marine Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

In order to be certified as Basic Marine Fire Protection Personnel an individual must:

- (1) hold a Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification; and
- (2) complete a commission approved marine fire protection program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved marine fire protection program shall consist of one of the following:
  - (A) the commission approved Basic Marine Fire Protection Curriculum as specified in Chapter 3 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or
  - (B) An out-of-state, and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the commission approved Basic Marine Fire Protection Curriculum.

**§423.305. Minimum Standards for Intermediate Marine Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Intermediate Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold, as a prerequisite, a Basic Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification as defined in §423.303 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Marine Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of four years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:

(A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in fire service, may not be counted towards this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification. Repeating a course, or a course of similar content, cannot be used towards this level of certification.

**§423.307. Minimum Standards for Advanced Marine Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Advanced Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold as a prerequisite an Intermediate Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification as defined in §423.305 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for

Intermediate Marine Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of eight years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:

(A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted towards this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

### **§423.309. Minimum Standards for Master Marine Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Master Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold, as a prerequisite, an Advanced Marine Fire Protection Personnel certification as defined in §423.307 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Advanced Marine Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of twelve years of fire protection experience, 60 college semester hours or an associate's degree, which includes at least 18 college semester hours in fire science subjects.

(b) College level courses from both the upper and lower division may be used to satisfy the education requirement for Master Marine Fire Protection Personnel Certification.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 4**

4. **Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 427, Training Facility Certification. (See attached)**

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: As in effect on 3/4/2025.

## **TITLE 37 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS**

### **PART 13 TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION**

#### **CHAPTER 427 TRAINING FACILITY CERTIFICATION**

##### **SUBCHAPTER A ON-SITE CERTIFIED TRAINING PROVIDER**

###### **§427.1. Minimum Standards for Certified Training Facilities for Fire Protection Personnel.**

- (a) An on-site training facility must be certified by the commission in each discipline for which the facility provides training for fire protection personnel certification. An on-site training facility is where instructors and students are in immediate proximity and where content is instructed primarily in classrooms, at demonstration projects, in fire simulation structures, on fire apparatus, or at training sites in the field under direct supervision of the training facility instructors.
- (b) A certified on-site training facility may be approved to instruct in any one or all of the disciplines for which fire protection personnel certification is available.
- (c) Minimum requirements for certification as a certified on-site training facility shall include facilities, apparatus, equipment, reference materials, standard operating procedures, instructors, and records to support a quality education and training program. The resources must provide for classroom instruction, demonstrations, and practical exercises for the trainees to develop the knowledge and skills required for fire protection personnel certification.
- (d) The on-site facilities and training shall be performance oriented, when required. Practical performance training with maximum participation by trainees shall be an integral part of the training program. The evaluation process will emphasize performance testing to determine if the trainee has acquired the knowledge and skills to achieve the required level of competency required by the respective training program.
- (e) It must be clearly understood that the minimum standard for training facilities is applicable only as the title implies and does not address the additional training facility resources which are required for the continuing in-service training essential to the

development and maintenance of a well-coordinated and effective fire service organization.

(f) An organization must submit an application for certification as an on-site training facility to the commission. The application will include descriptions, addresses of physical facilities and an inventory of apparatus, equipment, and reference material to be utilized in conducting the training. It is not required that the equipment be owned by, permanently assigned to, nor kept at a training facility, but must be readily available for instructional purposes. In such a case, the training facility must submit a letter of commitment from the provider of the resources with the original training facility certification application authorizing the use of resources not controlled by the training facility. A copy of the letters of commitment must be maintained on-site and available for review. Photographs of resources annotated to reflect their identity may be required as part of the application. When submitting training approvals, the facility shall certify that the resources are provided in accordance with this chapter.

(g) The chief training officer will:

- (1) attest to the fact that the training meets the competencies in the applicable commission curriculum and/or NFPA Standards; and
- (2) submit a testing schedule for all required academy skills.

### **§427.3. Facilities.**

The following minimum resources, applicable to the discipline, are required for an on-site training facility. These resources may be combined or separated utilizing one or more structures.

- (1) A training tower equivalent to two or more stories in height. The term "training tower" as used in these standards is a structure suitable for training in the practical application of required ladder, rescue, hose and rope skills training.
- (2) A facility for classroom instruction and testing shall have seating capacity for anticipated trainees. The facility must be conducive for an effective learning environment including environmental comfort for instructors and students, physical requirements needed for good seeing and hearing, adequate lighting, and free of outside distractions.
- (3) An area for practical application of principles and procedures of fire fighting, hose loading, pumper operation, to include friction loss, nozzle reaction, fire stream patterns, and GPM discharge utilizing various layouts for hand lines and/or master stream appliances.

(4) An enclosed area or room for use in practical training with self-contained breathing apparatus. This may be a smoke and fire room or enclosed area which can be charged with smoke-producing devices to provide a realistic training environment.

(5) A structure suitable for interior live fire training as required by the particular discipline(s).

(6) Facilities to conduct exterior live fire training as required by the particular discipline(s).

(7) If performance or driving skills are part of the training program, suitable area(s) for practicing required skills, demonstration of skills, and performance testing.

#### **§427.5. Apparatus.**

The following minimum apparatus resources, applicable to the discipline, are required for an on-site training facility.

(1) For a certified on-site training facility--approved for basic structure fire protection personnel certification training:

(A) A pumper apparatus fully equipped for functions as required by the basic fire suppression curriculum.

(B) An aerial ladder truck for functions as required by the basic fire suppression curriculum.

(2) For a certified on-site training facility--approved for basic aircraft rescue fire fighting (ARFF) personnel certification training:

(A) an ARFF vehicle for assigned aircraft type and size,

(B) an ARFF vehicle with 260 gpm minimum turret; and

(C) Support vehicles per authority having jurisdiction.

(3) For a certified on-site training facility--approved for Driver/Operator certification training:

(A) Driver/Operator-Pumper--A fire apparatus with a permanently mounted fire pump that has a rated discharge capacity of 750 gpm (2850 L/min) or greater as defined in NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus or its successor.

(B) Driver/Operator-Aerial--A fire apparatus with a permanently mounted, power-operated elevating device such as a ladder, ladder platform, telescoping platform, or articulating platform, with an elevating water delivery system.

#### **§427.7. Protective Clothing, Use, Care and Maintenance.**

All protective clothing used during instruction for a commission approved fire protection personnel training program shall be appropriate for the training evolution. Protective clothing and elements no longer used for emergency operations may be used for non-live fire training provided such clothing and elements are not contaminated, defective, or damaged and are appropriately marked to be easily recognized.

(1) All protective clothing used for live fire training, shall comply with the minimum standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard or its successor suitable for the tasks the individual is expected to perform.

(A) A certified training facility that provides personal protective equipment (PPE) shall comply with NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Structural Fire Fighting Protection Ensembles or its successor and provide upon request a written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the use, maintenance, and care of personal protective equipment (PPE) to include the application of Preliminary Exposure Reduction for determination of the appropriate level of cleaning and inspection of PPE at the conclusion of a training evolution.

(B) A certified training facility shall verify NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Structural Fire Fighting Protection Ensembles or its successor for compliance with personal protective equipment provided by the participant.

(2) The training facility shall comply with the following guidelines for use, care and maintenance of PPE used during live-fire training depending on the type of burn facility and/or fuel used.

(A) Acquired Structures--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in an environment created by an acquired structure should be treated as stated in §435.1(a)(3) of this title (relating to Protective Clothing).

(B) Gas-Fired Training Center Buildings--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in an environment that uses gas-fired props may be cleaned as needed for soil levels that are hygienically unpleasant. Advanced cleaning and inspections should be completed as stated within the training facility's SOP.

(C) Non-Gas Fired Training Center Buildings--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in an environment that uses non-gas fired props must be assessed for contamination of products of combustion. Preliminary exposure reduction should be done as soon as the training is completed for the day. Advanced cleaning and inspection should be completed as soon as practically possible.

(D) Exterior Props--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in an environment that uses gas-fired props may be cleaned as needed for soil levels that are hygienically unpleasant. Advanced cleaning and inspections should be completed as stated within the training facility's SOP's.

(E) Exterior Class B Liquid Fires--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in exterior Class B liquid fire props must be assessed for contamination of products of combustion. Preliminary exposure reduction should be done as soon as the training is completed for the day. Advanced cleaning and inspection should be completed as soon as practically possible.

#### **§427.9. Equipment.**

The training facility must ensure that all equipment necessary for practice of performance skills identified in the commission's Curriculum Manual or Curriculum Skills Manual is available in sufficient quantity for use by trainees. The minimum equipment required for conducting training is identified in the Equipment List found in each discipline chapter within the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) Curriculum Manual.

(1) All Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) that will be used during the course of instruction for a commission approved fire protection personnel training program shall comply with §435.3 of this title (relating to Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus). This rule applies whether the SCBA is provided by the academy or the trainee. If instruction in the use of self-contained breathing apparatus is a part of the training, then self-contained breathing apparatus in sufficient numbers shall be provided to enable each trainee to wear the equipment for at least the life of one breathing air tank during the training. If a trainee will be subjected to a hazardous atmosphere or where the atmosphere is unknown, the trainee shall be provided with a self-contained breathing apparatus. (Note: All self-contained breathing apparatus used by a certified training facility and the air used in self-contained breathing apparatus must comply with §435.3 of this title (relating to Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus). This rule applies whether the self-contained breathing apparatus is provided by the academy or the trainee. All students, instructors, safety personnel, and other personnel participating in any evolution or

operation of fire suppression during the live fire training shall breathe from an SCBA air supply whenever operating under one or more of the following conditions:

- (A) in any atmosphere that is oxygen deficient or contaminated by products of combustion, or both;
  - (B) in any atmosphere that is suspected of being oxygen deficient or contaminated by products of combustion, or both;
  - (C) in any atmosphere that can become oxygen deficient or contaminated, or both; and/or
  - (D) below ground level;
- (2) standard classroom equipment to include appropriate instructional aids and the use of cutaways, models, flip charts, and other visual aids are recommended to enhance effectiveness of the instruction; and
- (3) other equipment, which may include training simulators, training aids, clothing and tools required by the applicable training program.

#### **§427.11. Reference Material.**

A reference library is required. The library must contain the publications required to conduct research and develop lesson plans covering the material required in the applicable training program. The reference library material must be readily and easily accessible to students and instructors.

#### **§427.13. Records.**

(a) Training records, print or electronic, shall be maintained by the regulated training entity that reflect at minimum:

- (1) training subject;
- (2) date(s) of instruction;
- (3) who attended the training;
- (4) instructor(s);

- (5) course grade report with individual trainee test scores,
- (6) individual trainee Commission-Designated Performance Skill Evaluations; and
- (7) when administering distance skill evaluations, letter(s) of assurance for performance skill evaluations including the identification of the examinee, evaluating field examiner, and observer.

(b) The regulated training entity must be able to substantiate the evaluation process used to determine the trainee has acquired the knowledge and skills to achieve the minimum level of competency required by the applicable commission curriculum and/or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

(c) All records must be maintained by the regulated training entity for commission review for a minimum of three years or in accordance with the requirement of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, State and Local Records Management Division, whichever is greater.

#### **§427.18. Live Fire Training Evolutions.**

The most current edition of NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions or its successor, shall be used as a guide when developing standard operating procedures for conducting live fire training.

(1) Prior to being permitted to participate in live fire training evolutions for basic fire suppression certification training, the student shall have received training to meet the performance requirements for Fire Fighter I in NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications or its successor, related to the following subjects:

- (A) safety;
- (B) fire behavior;
- (C) portable extinguishers;
- (D) personal protective equipment to include SCBA;
- (E) ladders;
- (F) fire hose, appliances, and streams;
- (G) overhaul;

- (H) water supply;
  - (I) ventilation;
  - (J) forcible entry; and
  - (K) building construction.
- (2) The on-site lead instructor will ensure that the water supply rate and duration for each live fire training evolution is adequate to control and extinguish the training fire. The lead instructor will also ensure that the resources necessary for backup lines to protect personnel and exposed property are available and deployed.
- (3) The on-site lead instructor will ensure that the buildings or props being utilized for live fire training are in a condition that would not pose an undue safety risk.
- (4) A safety officer shall be appointed for all live fire training evolutions. The safety officer shall have the authority, regardless of rank, to intervene and control any aspect of the operations when, in his or her judgment, a potential or actual danger, accident, or unsafe condition exists. The safety officer shall not be assigned other duties that interfere with safety responsibilities. The safety officer shall not be a student.
- (5) No person(s) shall play the role of a victim inside the building.
- (6) The participating student-to-instructor ratio shall not be greater than five to one.
- (7) Prior to the ignition of any fire, instructors shall ensure that all personal protective clothing and/or self-contained breathing apparatus are NFPA compliant and being worn in the proper manner.
- (8) Prior to conducting any live fire training, a pre-burn briefing session shall be conducted. All participants shall be required to conduct a walk-through of the structure in order to have a knowledge of, and familiarity with, the layout of the building and to be able to facilitate any necessary evacuation of the building.
- (9) A standard operating procedure shall be developed and utilized for live fire training evolutions. The standard operating procedure shall include, but not be limited to:
- (A) a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS). A PASS device shall be provided for each student and instructors participating in live fire training and shall meet the requirements in §435.9 of this title (relating to PASS devices). This applies whether the PASS device is provided by the academy or the trainee;

- (B) a Personnel Accountability System that complies with §435.13 of this title (relating to Personnel Accountability System);
- (C) an Incident Management System;
- (D) use of personal protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus;
- (E) an evacuation signal and procedure; and pre-burn, burn and post-burn procedures.

#### **§427.19. General Information.**

- (a) All certified training facilities shall meet these minimum requirements. Training credit will not be recognized from a training facility that has not been certified by the commission, unless the program has been deemed equivalent. The commission shall take action on an application for certification of a training facility within 30 days from receipt.
- (b) Certified training facilities shall conduct all training in a controlled and safe manner so that trainees are not subjected to unnecessary risks. Texas Government Code, §419.032(c) provides that fire protection personnel must complete a commission approved training course in fire suppression before being assigned to fire suppression duties. Certified training facilities shall not put trainees at risk by requiring or allowing a trainee to perform the duties of fire protection personnel at actual uncontrolled emergency situations such as, but not limited to, structure fires, aircraft fires, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents or dangerous rescue situations.
- (c) A certified training facility may transport trainees to the site of an actual emergency for training purposes only if the following requirements are strictly adhered to:
  - (1) the trainees are kept in a group under the direct supervision of qualified instructors to maintain accountability and ensure their safety;
  - (2) the trainees are kept outside of the emergency operations area; and
  - (3) the trainees' activities are restricted to observation only and trainees are not allowed to participate in emergency operations.
- (d) Certified training facilities are subject to inspection by the commission at any time during regular business hours.

(e) In order to retain the certification as a certified training facility, schools desiring to make substantial changes in the facility or other conditions under which the school was approved shall coordinate such plans with the commission.

(f) The commission shall be notified, in writing, within 14 days of any change from the original status under which the certification was issued.

(g) The commission may revoke, suspend, probate, refuse to renew, or otherwise limit the certification of a training facility when the commission determines that the training facility:

- (1) fails to provide the quality of training for which the facility was approved; or
- (2) fails to comply with commission rules and/or these minimum standards; or
- (3) fails to submit required reports in a timely manner or submits false reports to the commission; or
- (4) fails to meet at least a 70% student pass rate on the certification examination per course.

## **SUBCHAPTER B DISTANCE TRAINING PROVIDER**

### **§427.201. Minimum Standards for Distance Training Provider.**

(a) The following definition is applicable to this subchapter only. Approved distance training is defined as fire training where instructors and students are primarily in different locations and content is instructed primarily using the internet or an intranet. Courses must be interactive. Distance training that serves as nothing more than electronic text is not acceptable. Online courses must provide the opportunity for the student to interact or ask questions via e-mail, chat rooms or some other method of communication. Other computer-mediated methods of instruction may be used to enhance instruction; however, the primary delivery method must be through the internet or an intranet.

(b) A distance training provider must seek certification as a training facility in each discipline for which it intends to conduct certification training for fire protection personnel.

(c) In order to become a commission approved distance training provider, the provider must submit a completed training facility application with supporting documentation and fees. The application will include descriptions and addresses of where the distance training provider will have their course delivery and materials. A distance training provider must provide documentation of its ability to meet all minimum requirements for each discipline for which it seeks certification. The documentation must also identify how students and instructors will access resources required to complete the training.

(d) A distance training provider that applies for certification as a training facility in a discipline that includes skills training shall comply with Subchapter A of this chapter concerning minimum standards, facilities, apparatus, protective clothing, equipment, and live fire training utilized to teach and test the required skills.

### **§427.203. Facilities.**

The following minimum resources, applicable to the discipline, are required for a distance training provider. These resources may be combined or separated utilizing one or more structures.

(1) A training tower equivalent to two or more stories in height. The term "training tower" as used in these standards is a structure suitable for training in the practical application of required ladder, rescue, hose, and rope skills training.

(2) A facility for classroom instruction and testing shall have seating capacity for anticipated trainees. The facility must be conducive for an effective learning environment including environmental comfort for instructors and students, physical requirements needed for good seeing and hearing, adequate lighting, and free of outside distractions.

(3) An area for practical application of principles and procedures of fire fighting,

hose loading, pumper operation, to include friction loss, nozzle reaction, fire stream patterns, and GPM discharge utilizing various layouts for hand lines and/or master stream appliances.

(4) An enclosed area or room for use in practical training with self-contained breathing apparatus. This may be a smoke and fire room or enclosed area which can be charged with smoke-producing devices to provide a realistic training environment.

(5) A structure suitable for interior live fire training as required by the particular discipline(s).

(6) Facilities to conduct exterior live fire training as required by the particular discipline(s).

(7) If performance or driving skills are part of the training program, suitable area(s) for practicing required skills, demonstration of skills, and performance testing.

#### **§427.205. Apparatus.**

The following minimum apparatus resources, applicable to the discipline, are required for a distance training provider.

(1) For a certified distance training provider--approved for basic structure fire protection personnel certification training:

(A) A pumper apparatus fully equipped for functions as required by the basic fire suppression curriculum.

(B) An aerial ladder truck for functions as required by the basic fire suppression curriculum.

(2) For a certified distance training provider--approved for basic aircraft rescue fire fighting (ARFF) personnel certification training:

(A) an ARFF vehicle for assigned aircraft type and size,

(B) an ARFF vehicle with 260 gpm minimum turret; and

(C) Support vehicles per AHJ.

(3) For a certified distance training provider--approved for Driver/Operator certification training:

(A) Driver/Operator-Pumper--A fire apparatus with a permanently mounted fire pump that has a rated discharge capacity of 750 gpm (2850 L/min) or greater as defined in NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus or its successor.

- (B) Driver/Operator-Aerial--A fire apparatus with a permanently mounted, power- operated elevating device such as a ladder, ladder platform, telescoping platform, or articulating platform, with an elevating water delivery system.

## **§427.207. Protective Clothing, Use, Care and Maintenance.**

All protective clothing used during instruction for a commission approved fire protection personnel training program shall be appropriate for the training evolution. Protective clothing and elements no longer used for emergency operations may be used for non-live fire training provided such clothing and elements are not contaminated, defective, or damaged and are appropriately marked to be easily recognized.

(1) All protective clothing used for live fire training shall comply with the minimum standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard suitable for the tasks the individual is expected to perform.

(A) A certified training provider that provides personal protective equipment shall comply with NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Structural Fire Fighting Protection Ensembles or its successor and provide upon request a written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the use, maintenance, and care of personal protective equipment (PPE) to include the application of Preliminary Exposure Reduction for determination of the appropriate level of cleaning and inspection of PPE at the conclusion of a training evolution.

(B) A certified training provider shall verify NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Structural Fire Fighting Protection Ensembles or its successor, for compliance with personal protective equipment provided by the participant.

(2) The distance training provider shall comply with the following guidelines for use, care and maintenance of PPE used during live-fire training depending on the type of burn facility and/or fuel used.

(A) Acquired Structures--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in an environment created by an acquired structure should be treated as stated in §435.1(a)(3) of this title (relating to Protective Clothing).

(B) Gas-Fired Training Center Buildings--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in an environment that uses gas-fired props may be cleaned as needed for soil levels that are hygienically unpleasant. Advanced cleaning and inspections should be completed as stated within the training facility's SOP.

(C) Non-Gas Fired Training Center Buildings--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in an environment that uses non-gas fired props must be assessed for contamination of products of combustion. Preliminary exposure reduction should be done as soon as the training is completed for the day. Advanced cleaning and inspection should be completed as soon as

practically possible.

(D) Exterior Props--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in an environment that uses gas-fired props may be cleaned as needed for soil levels that are hygienically unpleasant. Advanced cleaning and inspections should be completed as stated within the training facility's SOP's.

(E) Exterior Class B Liquid Fires--Firefighting ensemble and/or element that has been used in exterior Class B liquid fire props must be assessed for contamination of products of combustion. Preliminary exposure reduction should be done as soon as the training is completed for the day. Advanced cleaning and inspection should be completed as soon as practically possible.

### **§427.209. Equipment.**

The distance training provider must ensure that all equipment necessary for practice of performance skills identified in the commission's Curriculum Manual or Curriculum Skills Manual is available in sufficient quantity for use by trainees. The minimum equipment required for conducting training is identified in the Equipment List found in each discipline chapter within the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) Curriculum Manual. All Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) that will be used during the course of instruction for a commission approved fire protection personnel training program shall comply with §435.3 of this title (relating to Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus). This rule applies whether the SCBA is provided by the academy or the trainee.

(1) If instruction in the use of self-contained breathing apparatus is a part of the training, then self-contained breathing apparatus in sufficient numbers shall be provided to enable each trainee to wear the equipment for at least the life of one breathing air tank during the training. If a trainee will be subjected to a hazardous atmosphere or where the atmosphere is unknown, the trainee shall be provided with a self-contained breathing apparatus. (Note: All self-contained breathing apparatus used by a certified training facility and the air used in self-contained breathing apparatus must comply with §435.3 of this title. This rule applies whether the self-contained breathing apparatus is provided by the academy or the trainee. All students, instructors, safety personnel, and other personnel participating in any evolution or operation of fire suppression during the live fire training shall breathe from an SCBA air supply whenever operating under one or more of the following conditions:

(A) in any atmosphere that is oxygen deficient or contaminated by products of combustion, or both.

(B) in any atmosphere that is suspected of being oxygen deficient or contaminated by products of combustion, or both.

(C) in any atmosphere that can become oxygen deficient or contaminated, or both; and/or

(D) below ground level.

(2) standard classroom equipment to include appropriate instructional aids and the use of cutaways, models, flip charts, and other visual aids are recommended to enhance effectiveness of the instruction; and

(3) other equipment, which may include training simulators, training aids, clothing and tools required by the applicable training program.

#### **§427.211. Reference Material.**

A reference library is required. The library must contain the publications required to conduct research and develop lesson plans covering the material required in the applicable training program. The reference library material must be readily and easily accessible to students and instructors.

#### **§427.213. Records.**

(a) Training records, print or electronic, shall be maintained by the regulated distance training provider that reflect at minimum:

(1) training subject;

(2) date(s) of instruction;

(3) who attended the training;

(4) instructor(s);

(5) course grade report with individual trainee test scores;

(6) individual trainee Commission-Designated Performance Skill Evaluations; and

(7) when administering distance skill evaluations, letter(s) of assurance for performance skill evaluations including the identification of the examinee, evaluating field examiner, and observer.

(b) The regulated distance training provider must be able to substantiate the evaluation process used to determine the trainee has acquired the knowledge and skills to achieve the minimum level of competency required by the applicable commission curriculum and/or NFPA standards.

(c) All records must be maintained by the regulated distance training provider for commission review for a minimum of three years or in accordance with the requirement of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, State and Local Records Management Division, whichever is greater.

### **§427.218. Live-Fire Training Evolutions.**

The most current edition of NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions or its successor, shall be used as a guide when developing standard operating procedures for conducting live fire training.

(1) Prior to being permitted to participate in live fire training evolutions for basic fire suppression certification training, the student shall have received training to meet the performance requirements for Fire Fighter I in NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications or its successor, related to the following subjects:

- (A) safety;
- (B) fire behavior;
- (C) portable extinguishers;
- (D) personal protective equipment to include SCBA;
- (E) ladders;
- (F) fire hose, appliances, and streams;
- (G) overhaul;
- (H) water supply;
- (I) ventilation;
- (J) forcible entry; and
- (K) building construction.

- (2) The on-site lead instructor will ensure that the water supply rate and duration for each live fire training evolution is adequate to control and extinguish the training fire. The lead instructor will also ensure that the resources necessary for backup lines to protect personnel and exposed property are available and deployed.
- (3) The on-site lead instructor will ensure that the buildings or props being utilized for live fire training are in a condition that would not pose an undue safety risk.
- (4) A safety officer shall be appointed for all live fire training evolutions. The safety officer shall have the authority, regardless of rank, to intervene and control any aspect of the operations when, in his or her judgment, a potential or actual danger, accident, or unsafe condition exists. The safety officer shall not be assigned other duties that interfere with safety responsibilities. The safety officer shall not be a student.
- (5) No person(s) shall play the role of a victim inside the building.
- (6) The participating student-to-instructor ratio shall not be greater than five to one.
- (7) Prior to the ignition of any fire, instructors shall ensure that all personal protective clothing and/or self-contained breathing apparatus are NFPA compliant and being worn in the proper manner.
- (8) Prior to conducting any live fire training, a pre-burn briefing session shall be conducted. All participants shall be required to conduct a walk-through of the structure in order to have a knowledge of, and familiarity with, the layout of the building and to be able to facilitate any necessary evacuation of the building.
- (9) A standard operating procedure shall be developed and utilized for live fire training evolutions. The standard operating procedure shall include, but not be limited to:
  - (A) a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS). A PASS device shall be provided for each student and instructors participating in live fire training and shall meet the requirements in §435.9 of this title (relating to PASS devices). This applies whether the PASS device is provided by the academy or the trainee,
  - (B) a Personnel Accountability System that complies with §435.13 of this title (relating to Personal Accountability System),
  - (C) an Incident Management System,
  - (D) use of personal protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus;  
or

(E) an evacuation signal and procedure; and pre-burn, burn and post-burn procedures.

**§427.219. General Information.**

(a) All distance training providers shall meet these minimum requirements. Training credit will not be recognized from a distance training provider that has not been certified by the commission unless the program has been deemed equivalent. The commission shall take action on an application for certification of a distance training provider within 30 days from receipt.

(b) Certified distance training providers shall conduct all training in a controlled and safe manner so that trainees are not subjected to unnecessary risks. Texas Government Code, §419.032(c) provides that fire protection personnel must complete a commission approved training course in fire suppression before being assigned to fire suppression duties. Certified training facilities shall not put trainees at risk by requiring or allowing a trainee to perform the duties of fire protection personnel at actual uncontrolled emergency situations such as, but not limited to, structure fires, aircraft fires, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, or dangerous rescue situations.

(c) A certified distance training provider may transport trainees to the site of an actual emergency for training purposes, only if the following requirements are strictly adhered to:

- (1) the trainees are kept in a group under the direct supervision of qualified instructors to maintain accountability and ensure their safety;
- (2) the trainees are kept outside of the emergency operations area; and
- (3) the trainees' activities are restricted to observation only and trainees are not allowed to participate in emergency operations.

(d) Certified distance training providers are subject to inspection by the commission at any time during regular business hours.

(e) In order to retain the certification as a certified distance training provider, schools desiring to make substantial changes in the facility or other conditions under which the school was approved shall coordinate such plans with the commission.

(f) The commission shall be notified, in writing, within 14 days of any change from the original status under which the certification was issued.

(g) The commission may revoke, suspend, probate, refuse to renew, or otherwise limit the certification of a distance training provider when the commission determines that the distance training provider:

- (1) fails to provide the quality of training and education for which the provider was approved; or
- (2) fails to comply with commission rules and/or these minimum standards; or
- (3) fails to submit required reports in a timely manner or submits false reports to the commission; or
- (4) fails to meet at least a 70% student pass rate on the certification examination.

## **SUBCHAPTER C TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ON-SITE AND DISTANCE TRAINING PROVIDERS**

### **§427.301. General Provisions for Training Programs--On-Site and Distance Training Providers.**

(a) Training programs that are intended to satisfy the requirements for fire protection personnel certification must meet the objectives and competencies in that discipline.

(b) A system for evaluating the comprehension of the trainee, including periodic and comprehensive written tests, is required. If performance skills are part of the applicable curriculum, performance testing shall be done in accordance with §439.11 of this title (relating to Commission-Designated Performance Skill Evaluations).

### **§427.303. Training Approval Process for On-Site and Distance Training Providers.**

(a) When seeking training prior approvals (TPAs), a training provider shall certify that it has provided the resources described in §427.1 or §427.201 of this title as applicable (relating to Minimum Standards for Certified Training Facilities for Fire Protection Personnel and Minimum Standards for Distance Training Provider, respectively).

(b) All training for certification must be approved by the commission. A training provider must submit training prior approval information at least 10 days prior to the proposed start date of the training.

(c) Approved courses are subject to audit by commission staff at any time. Any deviation from the information submitted in the original training must be requested for approval from the commission at least one day before the change takes place unless the training provider is unable to do so because of unforeseen circumstances.

### **§427.305. Procedures for Testing Conducted by On-Site and Distance Training Providers.**

(a) The requirements and provisions in this section apply to procedures for periodic and final testing conducted by training providers. For procedures regarding examinations for certification that occur after a training program is completed, see Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification).

(b) Periodic and comprehensive final tests shall be given by the training provider in addition to the commission examination required in Chapter 439 of this title.

(c) Periodic tests shall be administered at the ratio of one test per 50 hours of recommended training, or portion thereof. An average score of 70% must be

achieved on all required periodic tests.

(d) In addition to periodic tests, a comprehensive final test must be administered. The final test must be conducted in a proctored setting. For purposes of this section, a proctor can be an approved TCFP Field Examiner, or a member of a testing center of an educational institution. A passing score of 70% must be achieved.

(e) If a course is taught in phases or sections, a comprehensive test for each phase or section shall be administered upon completion of each phase or section and a passing score of 70% must be achieved.

### **§427.307. On-Site and Distance Training Provider Staff Requirements.**

(a) The chief training officer of a training facility, as a minimum, must possess Fire Service Instructor III certification.

(b) All training instructors (except guest instructors) as a minimum shall possess Fire Instructor Certification. The instructor(s) must be certified in the applicable discipline or be approved by the commission to instruct in the applicable subject.

(c) The lead instructor, as a minimum, shall possess a Fire Service Instructor II certification and must be certified by the commission in the applicable discipline, except as stated in subsections (h)(2) and (i)(2) of this section.

(d) Guest instructors are not required to be certified as instructors.

(e) In order to teach fire officer certification courses, an individual who does not meet the requirements of subsection (a) or (c) of this section, shall possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree in management or its equivalent.

(f) In order to teach an instructor certification training course for Fire Service Instructor I, an individual must hold one of the following three qualifications:

(1) A Fire Service Instructor II certification or higher; or

(2) A Bachelor's degree with the following:

(A) as a minimum, a minor in education; and

(B) three years of teaching experience in a fire department, department of a state agency, educational institution, or political subdivision of the state, during which time the individual taught a minimum of 200 class hours; or

(3) An associate degree with the following:

(A) twelve semester hours of education instructional courses; and

(B) five years of teaching experience in a fire department, department of a state

agency, educational institution, or political subdivision of the state, during which time the individual taught a minimum of 400 class hours.

(g) In order to teach an instructor certification training course for Fire Service Instructor II or III, an individual must hold one of the following three qualifications:

(1) A Fire Service Instructor III certification; or

(2) A Bachelor's degree with the following:

(A) as a minimum, a minor in education; and

(B) three years of teaching experience in a fire department, department of a state agency, educational institution, or political subdivision of the state, during which time the individual taught a minimum of 200 class hours; or

(3) An associate degree with the following:

(A) twelve semester hours of education instructional courses; and

(B) five years of teaching experience in a fire department, department of a state agency, educational institution, or political subdivision of the state, during which time the individual taught a minimum of 400 class hours.

(h) In order to teach a certification course for Basic Wildland Fire Protection:

(1) The unit instructor must hold Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection certification or be approved by the commission to instruct a Basic Wildland course and hold:

(A) commission Fire Service Instructor I certification or higher; or

(B) instructor credentials as required by the current National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Standards for Course Delivery (901-1) or current Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) guidelines for this level of course.

(2) The lead instructor must hold NWCG or TIFMAS Single Resource Boss qualification and hold:

(A) commission Fire Service Instructor I certification or higher; or

(B) instructor credentials as required by the current NWCG Standards for Course Delivery (901-1) or current TIFMAS guidelines for this level of course.

(i) In order to teach a certification course for Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection:

(1) The unit instructor must hold an Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection certification or be approved by the commission to instruct an Intermediate Wildland course and hold:

- (A) commission Fire Service Instructor I certification or higher; or
  - (B) instructor credentials as required by the current NWCG Standards for Course Delivery (901-1) or current TIFMAS guidelines for this level of course.
- (2) The lead instructor must hold NWCG or TIFMAS Single Resource Boss qualification and:
- (A) commission Fire Service Instructor I certification or higher; or
  - (B) instructor credentials as required by the current NWCG Standards for Course Delivery (901-1) or current TIFMAS guidelines for this level of course.

## **SUBCHAPTER D CERTIFIED TRAINING FACILITIES**

### **§427.401. General Provisions for Training Facilities Not Owned by the State of Texas or Operated by a Political Subdivision of the State of Texas.**

(a) The provisions in this subchapter apply only to certified training facilities that are not owned or operated by the State of Texas or a political subdivision of the State of Texas.

(b) Training facilities seeking certification under this subchapter must comply with all the provisions of this chapter and must also meet and comply with all commission rules.

(c) Training facilities seeking certification under this subchapter must apply for training facility certification in each discipline for which they intend to conduct certification training for fire protection personnel.

(d) In order to become a commission approved training facility under this subchapter, the provider must submit a completed commission training facility application for certification with supporting documentation and fees. Supporting documentation will consist of:

- (1) descriptions, photos and addresses of where the provider will have their course delivery and materials;
- (2) documentation of how the provider will meet all the minimum requirements for each discipline for which it seeks certification;
- (3) complete and correct financial statements, as specified in this subchapter, demonstrating the facility is financially stable and capable of fulfilling its commitments for training;
- (4) statement of ownership which identifies the owners, stockholders, partners, representatives, management, trustees, board members; and
- (5) documentation showing registration with the Texas Secretary of State as a business.

### **§427.403. Financial Standards.**

(a) Definitions Relating to Financial Requirements.

- (1) Balance Sheet--A statement of financial position or statement of condition, showing the status of assets, liabilities and owner equity for a defined period i.e., monthly, quarterly, etc.
  - (2) Current ratio--ability to pay current obligations from current assets.
  - (3) Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)--Conventions, rules and procedures that define accepted accounting practices to include both broad guidelines as well as detailed procedures.
  - (4) Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)--Conventions, rules and procedures that define accepted audit practices.
  - (5) Stockholders Equity (net worth)--amount by which assets exceed liabilities.
  - (6) Sworn statement--A notarized statement including the following language: "I swear or affirm that the information in these statements is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."
  - (7) Unearned income (tuition) affidavit--A statement of income received but not yet earned during the current or most recent fiscal year. This is usually shown as a liability on a balance sheet, assuming it will be credited to income within the normal accounting cycle.
- (b) The balance sheet required in this subchapter shall reflect the following:
- (1) positive equity or net worth balance;
  - (2) unearned tuition as a current liability;
  - (3) a current ratio of at least one-to-one (current assets divided by current liabilities); and
  - (4) stockholder's equity or net worth exceeding the amount shown for goodwill, if applicable, under assets in the balance sheet.
- (c) Compilations shall be accompanied by the owner's sworn statement that all submitted documents are true and correct to the best of the owner's knowledge.
- (d) All financial statements shall identify the name, license number, and licensing state of the accountant associated with the statements and be in accordance with GAAP.
- (e) A school that maintains a financial responsibility composite score that meets the general standards established in federal regulations by the U.S. Department of Education for postsecondary institutions participating in student financial assistance

programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, shall be considered to have met the financial standards of this subchapter.

(f) A school that qualifies under an alternative standard but not the general standard of these federal regulations will not be considered to have met the financial standards of this subchapter unless the school meets the other requirements stated in this subchapter.

(g) Requirements for Original Approvals.

(1) The owner shall furnish the commission with the following:

(A) a school owned by a sole proprietor must submit a reviewed personal balance sheet stating the disclosure of payments for the next five years to meet debt agreements as required by GAAP; or

(B) all other ownership structures must submit an audited balance sheet consistent with GAAP and GAAS and certified by an accountant.

(2) The facility shall submit a balance sheet, a list of the expected school-related expenses for the first three months of operation of the school; a sworn statement signed by the owner affirming the availability of sufficient cash to cover projected expenses at the date of the certification. Projected expenses may include the following:

(A) employee salaries, listed by position title, including withholding and unemployment taxes, and other related expenses;

(B) lease or rent payments for listed equipment;

(C) lease or rent payments for facilities;

(D) accounting, legal and other specifically identified professional fees;

(E) an estimate of expenses such as advertising, travel, textbooks, office and classroom supplies, printing, telephone, utilities, taxes;

(F) a projection of the gross amount of tuition and fees to be collected during each of the first two years of operation; and

(G) such other evidence as may be deemed appropriate by the commission to establish financial stability.

(h) Prior to a change in ownership of a facility, the purchaser shall furnish the commission a current balance sheet meeting the requirements outlined in this subchapter for original approvals, excluding the sufficient cash requirement for initial

expenses. The purchaser shall furnish any other evidence deemed appropriate by the commission to establish financial stability.

(i) The deletion or addition of any person that would be considered an owner is considered a change in facility ownership. The facility must notify the commission of the change in ownership within 14 days of the transaction.

(j) The commission may require submission of a full application for approval of a change in ownership.

(k) Management agreements must be disclosed to the commission. Parties to a management agreement shall be of good reputation and character.

(l) The deletion, addition or moving of a facility will be reported to the commission 14 days prior to the transaction.

(m) If the commission determines that the deletion, addition or moving of a facility presents an unreasonable transportation hardship which would prevent a student from completing the training at the new location, the school shall provide a full refund of all monies paid and a release from all obligations to the student.

(n) The commission shall be notified in writing of any legal action to which the facility, any of its owners, representatives or management employees is a party.

(o) The notification shall be within 14 days after the action is known to be filed or the facility, owner, representative or management employee is served.

(p) The facility shall include, with the required notice, a file-marked copy of the petition, complaint, or other legal instrument, including copies of any judgments.

(q) If the commission determines that reasonable cause exists to question the validity of any financial information submitted, or the financial stability of the facility, the commission may require at the facility's expense:

(1) an audit of the facility that has been certified by an accountant; or

(2) The owner must furnish any other evidence deemed appropriate by the commission to establish financial stability.

(r) The entity certified under this subchapter shall maintain, in a permanent format that is acceptable and readily accessible to the commission, a record of any funds received from, or on behalf of, the student. The entity shall clearly identify the payer, the type of funding, and the reason for the charges. These records shall be posted and kept current.

(s) An entity certified under this subchapter shall issue written receipts of any charges or payments to the student and maintain such records for review upon request by the

commission. Each separately charged item shall be clearly itemized on the student-signed receipt.

(t) An entity certified under this subchapter shall develop and maintain a cancellation and refund policy.

(u) The student shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to the facility if classes or courses are cancelled by the facility.

(v) For classes or courses cancelled by the student, refund policies will be based on a prorated basis or percentage of the class or program completed by the student.

(w) An entity certified under this subchapter shall comply with Chapter 437 of this title (relating to Fees).

(x) Upon application for renewal, an entity certified under this subchapter will provide a balance sheet with a sworn statement.

#### **§427.405. Policy Regarding Complaints.**

(a) Complaints. The entity shall:

(1) Submit a written grievance procedure designed to resolve disputes between current and former students and the school for commission approval;

(2) Provide a copy of the grievance procedure to each student and maintain proof of such delivery;

(3) Maintain records regarding grievance filings and resolutions; and

(4) Diligently work to resolve all complaints at the local school level.

(b) Investigations.

(1) The commission may investigate a complaint about an entity and may determine the extent of investigation needed by considering various factors, such as:

(A) the seriousness of the alleged violation;

(B) the source of the complaint;

(C) the school's history of compliance and complaints;

- (D) the timeliness of the complaint; and
  - (E) any other reasonable matter deemed appropriate.
- (2) The commission may require documentation or other evidence of the violation before initiating a complaint investigation.

**§427.407. School Responsibilities Regarding Instructors.**

- (a) The facility chief training officer (CTO) shall ensure that there are an appropriate number of instructors.
- (b) The facility CTO shall ensure that instructors are qualified to instruct in the subjects they are teaching or assisting.
- (c) The facility CTO shall ensure continuity of instruction and that instructors provide students with a quality education.
- (d) The facility CTO shall formally evaluate each instructor in writing at least annually and shall make the evaluations available for review by the commission.
- (e) The facility CTO shall ensure that students are allowed the opportunity to formally evaluate each instructor in writing and make the evaluations available for review by the commission.

**§427.409. Advertising.**

- (a) General Information for Advertising.
  - (1) A school shall not make deceptive statements in attempting to enroll students.
  - (2) The commission may require a school to furnish proof of any of its advertising claims.
- (b) Advertisement Method.
  - (1) A school may advertise for prospective students under "instruction," "education," "training," or a similarly titled classification.
  - (2) No school advertisements shall use the word "wanted," "help wanted," or "trainee," either in the headline or the body of the advertisement, nor shall any

advertisement indicate, in any manner, that the school has or knows of employment of any nature available to prospective students; only "placement assistance," if offered, may be advertised.

(3) A school shall not use terms to describe the significance of the approval that specify or connote greater approval. Terms that schools may not use to connote greater approval by the commission include, but are not limited to, "accredited," "supervised," "endorsed," and "recommended." A school shall not use the words "guarantee," "guaranteed," or "free" unless approved in writing by the commission.

(4) Any advertisement that includes a reference to awarding of credit hours shall include the statement, "limited transferability." Where a school has an arrangement with a college or university to accept transfer hours, such information may be advertised, but any limitations shall be included in the advertisement.

(c) Advertisement Content.

(1) Advertisement content shall include, and clearly indicate, the full and correct name of the school and its address, including city, as they appear on the certificate of approval.

(2) Advertisements shall not include:

(A) statements that the school or its programs are accredited unless the accreditation is that of an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;

(B) statements that the school or its courses of instruction have been approved unless the approval can be substantiated by an appropriate certificate of approval issued by an agency of the state or federal government;

(C) statements that represent the school as an employment agency under the same name, or a confusingly similar name, or at the same location of the school; or

(D) statements as being commission approved or IFSAC approved in order to solicit students prior to receiving actual commission approval. Any such activity by the school, prior to the commission's approval of the training course, shall constitute misrepresentation by the training facility and shall entitle each student in the course to a full refund of all monies paid and a release from all obligations to the student.

(3) A school holding a franchise to offer specialized programs or subjects not available to other schools shall not advertise such programs in such a manner as to diminish the value and scope of programs offered by other schools not holding

such a franchise. Advertising of special subjects or programs offered under a franchise shall be limited to the subject or programs offered.

(4) a school shall not use endorsements, commendations, or recommendations by students in favor of a school except with the consent of the student and without any offer of financial or other material compensation. Endorsements shall bear the legal or professional name of the student.

(5) a school shall not use a photograph, cut, engraving, illustration or graphic in advertising in such a manner as to:

(A) convey a false impression of size, importance, or location of the school, equipment, or facilities associated with the school, or

(B) circumvent any of the requirements of this subchapter regarding written or oral statements.

(6) Every advertisement must clearly indicate that training is being offered, and shall not, either by actual statement, omission, or intimation, imply that prospective employees are being sought.

(d) Financial Incentives. Advertisements shall not:

(1) state that students shall be guaranteed employment while enrolled in the school;

(2) state that employment shall be guaranteed for students after graduation; or

(3) misrepresent opportunities for employment upon completion of any program; or

(4) contain dollar amounts as representative or indicative of the earning potential of graduates unless those dollar amounts have been published by the United States Department of Labor. This provision shall not be construed as prohibiting the school from providing earning potential to the student individually on the student's receipt of enrollment policies or other such commission approved document.

(e) Advertisements for student tuition loans shall:

(1) contain the language "financial aid available, if qualified";

(2) appear in type no larger than the font used for the name of the school and in similar color and style; and

(3) does not preclude disclosure of the school's eligibility under the various state and federal loan programs.

(f) Advertisement Monitoring.

(1) The commission may order corrective action to counteract the effect of advertising in violation of the Act or rules, including:

(A) retraction by the school of such advertising claims published in the same manner as the claims themselves; and

(B) cancellation of telephone numbers without an automatic forwarding message.

(2) As corrective action for violations of the Act or rules, the commission may require schools to submit all advertisements to the commission for pre-approval at least 30 days before proposed submission of the advertisements to the advertising medium.

(3) Nothing in these guidelines shall prohibit release of information to students as required by a state or federal agency.

**§427.411. Cancellations or Suspensions.**

(a) If an approved course of instruction is discontinued for any reason, the commission shall be notified within 72 business hours (9 days) of discontinuance and furnished with the names and addresses of any students who were prevented from completion of the course of instruction due to discontinuance. Should the school fail to make arrangements satisfactory to the students and the commission for the completion of the course of instruction, the full amount of all tuition and fees paid by the students are then due and refundable. Any course of instruction discontinued will be removed from the list of approved courses of instruction.

(b) The commission may suspend enrollments in a particular course of instruction at any time the commission finds cause. For purposes of this subsection, cause includes, but is not limited to:

(1) inadequate instruction;

(2) unapproved or inadequate curriculum;

(3) inadequate equipment; or

(4) inadequate facilities.

(c) If a school begins teaching a course of instruction or revised course of instruction that has not been approved by the commission, the commission may require the

school to refund to the enrolled students all or a portion of the tuition fees.

**§427.413. Liabilities.**

(a) Curriculum and Testing.

(1) The school shall be able to provide license agreements with the publisher of any curriculum used. The school may not reproduce the curriculum, or any part thereof, without describing the purpose or having the written consent by said publisher.

(2) The school shall be able to provide a valid purchase receipt or license agreement of any published test banks, or any part thereof, used in the evaluation process of any course taught.

(b) Equipment and Facilities.

(1) The school shall be able to provide written agreements for the use of any equipment not owned by the school, but used during the instruction of any student. The agreement shall dictate the terms, liability, fees, and availability of maintenance records of such equipment.

(2) The school shall be able to provide written agreements of the use of any facilities or area, not otherwise public, but used during the instruction of any student. The agreement shall dictate the terms, liability, and fees of such facilities or area.

(c) Insurance Coverage. The school shall be able to provide a general liability policy issued by a company licensed to do business in the State of Texas.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 5**

5. **Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 431, Fire Investigator. (See attached)**

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: As in effect on 3/4/2025.

## **TITLE 37 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS**

### **PART 13 TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION**

#### **CHAPTER 431 FIRE INVESTIGATOR**

##### **SUBCHAPTER A MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ARSON INVESTIGATOR CERTIFICATION**

###### **§431.1. Minimum Standards for Arson Investigation Personnel.**

(a) Fire protection personnel who are appointed arson investigation duties must be certified, as a minimum, as a basic arson investigator as specified in §431.3 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Arson Investigator Certification) within one year from the date of initial appointment to such position.

(b) Prior to being appointed to arson investigation duties, fire protection personnel must complete a commission approved basic fire investigator training program, successfully pass the commission examination pertaining to that curriculum, and possess a current peace officer license from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement or document that the individual is a federal law enforcement officer.

(c) Personnel holding any level of arson investigation certification shall be required to comply with the continuing education requirements in §441.15 of this title (relating to Continuing Education for Arson Investigator or Fire Investigator).

###### **§431.3. Minimum Standards for Basic Arson Investigator Certification.**

In order to be certified as a Basic Arson Investigator an individual must:

- (1) possess a current basic peace officer's license from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement or documentation that the individual is a federal law enforcement officer;
- (2) hold a current license as a peace officer and notify the commission on the prescribed form regarding the law enforcement agency currently holding the individual's peace officer license; and

- (3) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as a Fire Investigator; or
- (4) complete a commission approved basic fire investigation training program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved fire investigation training program shall consist of one of the following:
- (A) completion of the commission approved Fire Investigator Curriculum, as specified in Chapter 5 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;
  - (B) successful completion of an out-of-state, NFA, or military training program which has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to meet the minimum requirements as listed in the commission approved Fire Investigator Curriculum as specified in Chapter 5 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or
  - (C) successful completion of the following college courses: Fire and Arson Investigation I or II, 3 semester hours; Hazardous Materials I, II, or III, 3 semester hours; Building Construction in the Fire Service or Building Codes and Construction, 3 semester hours; Fire Protection Systems, 3 semester hours. Total semester hours, 12.

#### **§431.5. Minimum Standards for Intermediate Arson Investigator Certification.**

- (a) Applicants for Intermediate Arson Investigator Certification must complete the following requirements:
- (1) hold as a prerequisite a Basic Arson Investigator Certification as defined in §431.3 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Arson Investigator Certification); and
  - (2) acquire a minimum of four years of fire protection experience and complete the requirements listed in one of the following options:
    - (A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or
    - (B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses;

or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(D) Option 4--Hold current Intermediate Peace Officer certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement with four additional law enforcement courses applicable for fire investigations (See exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Arson Investigator Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

#### **§431.7. Minimum Standards for Advanced Arson Investigator Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Advanced Arson Investigator certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold as a prerequisite an Intermediate Arson Investigator Certification as defined in §431.5 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Intermediate Arson Investigator Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of eight years of fire protection experience and complete the requirements listed in one of the following options:

(A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses;

or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(D) Option 4--Advanced Arson for Profit or Complex Arson Investigative Techniques (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives resident or field course, 80 hours); or

(E) Option 5--Hold current Advanced Peace Officer certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement with four additional law enforcement courses applicable for fire investigations (See exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Arson Investigator Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

#### **§431.9. Minimum Standards for Master Arson Investigator Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Master Arson Investigator Certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold as a prerequisite an Advanced Arson Investigator Certification as defined in §431.7 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Advanced Arson Investigator Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of twelve years of fire protection experience, and 60 college semester hours or an associate's degree, either of which includes at least 18 college semester hours in fire science or criminal justice subjects.

(b) College level courses from both the upper and lower division may be used to satisfy the education requirement for Master Arson Investigator Certification.

**§431.11. Minimum Standards for Arson Investigator Certification for Law Enforcement Personnel.**

(a) A law enforcement officer employed or commissioned by a law enforcement agency as a peace officer who is designated as an arson investigator by an appropriate local authority is eligible for certification on a voluntary basis by complying with this chapter.

(b) An individual holding commission certification as a fire investigator who becomes a law enforcement officer employed or commissioned by a law enforcement agency as a peace officer, and who is designated as an arson investigator by an appropriate local authority will qualify for a similar level arson investigator certification. To obtain an arson investigator certification the individual must make application to the commission to include confirmation of commission.

**§431.13. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.**

Individuals completing a commission approved basic fire investigator program and passing the applicable state examination may be granted an IFSAC seal as a Fire Investigator by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees. In order to qualify for an IFSAC seal, an individual must submit the application for the seal prior to the expiration of the examination.

## **SUBCHAPTER B MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE INVESTIGATOR CERTIFICATION**

### **§431.201. Minimum Standards for Fire Investigation Personnel.**

(a) Fire protection personnel who receive temporary or probationary appointment to fire investigation duties must be certified as a fire investigator by the Commission within one year of appointment to such duties.

(b) Prior to being appointed to fire investigation duties, personnel must:

(1) complete a commission approved basic fire investigator training program and successfully pass the commission examination pertaining to that curriculum; or

(2) hold current certification as structure fire protection personnel.

(c) Individuals holding a Fire Investigator certification shall be required to comply with the continuing education requirements in §441.15 of this title (relating to Continuing Education for Arson Investigator or Fire Investigator).

(d) Individuals certified under this subchapter shall limit their investigation to determining fire cause and origin. If evidence of a crime is discovered, custody and control of the investigation shall be immediately transferred to a certified arson investigator or licensed peace officer.

(e) Individuals who previously held arson investigator certification, who no longer hold a current commission as a peace officer, will qualify for certification as a fire investigator of similar level upon notice to the commission. To obtain a fire investigator certification the individual will be required to make application to the commission.

### **§431.203. Minimum Standards for Fire Investigator Certification.**

(a) In order to be certified as a Fire Investigator an individual must complete the requirements specified in §431.3(a)(3) or (4) of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Arson Investigator Certification).

(b) A person who holds or is eligible to hold a certificate as a Fire Investigator may be certified as an Arson Investigator by meeting the requirements of Chapter 431, Subchapter A, but shall not be required to repeat the applicable examination requirements.

### **§431.205. Minimum Standards for Intermediate Fire Investigator Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Intermediate Fire Investigator must complete the following requirements:

- (1) hold as a prerequisite a Basic Fire Investigator Certification as defined in §431.203 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Fire Investigator Certification); and
- (2) acquire a minimum of four years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:

(A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Fire Investigator Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

#### **§431.207. Minimum Standards for Advanced Fire Investigator Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Advanced Fire Investigator must complete the following requirements

- (1) hold as a prerequisite an Intermediate Fire Investigator Certification as defined in §431.203 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Fire Investigator Certification); and

- (2) acquire a minimum of eight years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:

(A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit

documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or

(B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from the either A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or

(C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).

(b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.

(c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Fire Investigator Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

#### **§431.209. Minimum Standards for Master Fire Investigator Certification.**

(a) Applicants for Master Fire Investigator Certification must complete the following requirements:

(1) hold as a prerequisite an Advanced Fire Investigator Certification as defined in §431.207 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Advanced Fire Investigator Certification); and

(2) acquire a minimum of twelve years of fire protection experience; and

(3) sixty college semester hours or an associate degree, that must include at least eighteen college semester hours in fire science or criminal justice subjects.

(b) College level courses from both the upper and lower division may be used to satisfy the education requirement for Master Fire Investigator Certification.

#### **§431.211. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSA) Seal--Fire**

**Investigator.**

Individuals completing a commission approved basic fire investigator program and passing the applicable state examination may be granted an IFSAC seal as a Fire Investigator by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees. In order to qualify for an IFSAC seal, an individual must submit the application for the seal prior to the expiration of the examination.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 6**

6. **Discussion and Possible Action on the Rule Review of 37 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 433, Driver/Operator. (See attached)**

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: As in effect on 2/28/2025.

## **TITLE 37 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS**

### **PART 13 TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION**

#### **CHAPTER 433 DRIVER/OPERATOR**

##### **SUBCHAPTER A MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DRIVER/OPERATOR-PUMPER**

###### **§433.1. Driver/Operator-Pumper Certification.**

A driver/operator-pumper is defined as an individual who safely operates a fire pumper in accordance with all state and local laws; operates a fire pump in a safe manner; and determines effective fire stream calculations and pump discharge pressures. Responsibilities include routine apparatus tests, maintenance, inspections, and servicing functions.

###### **§433.3. Minimum Standards for Driver/Operator-Pumper Certification.**

- (a) In order to obtain Driver/Operator-Pumper certification, the individual must:
- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and
  - (2) possess valid documentation as a Driver/Operator-Pumper from either:
    - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
    - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1 of this title (relating to Requirements--General); or
  - (3) complete a commission approved Driver/Operator-Pumper Curriculum and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved driver/operator-pumper program must consist of one of the following:

(A) complete a commission approved Driver/Operator-Pumper Curriculum as specified in Chapter 7 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;

(B) complete an out-of-state training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceeds the commission approved Driver/Operator-Pumper Curriculum; or

(C) complete a military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceeds the commission approved Driver/Operator-Pumper Curriculum.

(b) Out-of-state or military training programs, which are submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency, will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 7 (pertaining to Driver/Operator-Pumper) of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

#### **§433.5. Examination Requirements.**

(a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive driver/operator-pumper certification.

(b) Individuals will be permitted to take the commission examination for Driver/Operator-Pumper by documenting, as a minimum, completion of the NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter I training, and completing a commission approved driver/operator-pumper curriculum.

#### **§433.7. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.**

Individuals completing a commission approved driver/operator-pumper program; documenting, as a minimum, an IFSAC seal for Fire Fighter I; and passing the applicable state examination may be granted an IFSAC seal as a Driver/Operator-Pumper by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees. In order to qualify for an IFSAC seal, an individual must submit the application for the seal prior to the expiration of the examination.

## **SUBCHAPTER B MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DRIVER/OPERATOR-AERIAL APPARATUS**

### **§433.201. Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus Certification.**

A Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus is defined as an individual who operates an aerial apparatus safely and in accordance with all state and local laws; safely and correctly maneuvers, positions, stabilizes, and operates an aerial apparatus and device; and effectively deploys and operates an elevated master stream from a water source. Other responsibilities include routine apparatus testing, maintenance, inspections, and servicing functions.

### **§433.203. Minimum Standards for Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus Certification.**

(a) In order to obtain Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus certification, the individual must:

- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and
- (2) possess valid documentation as a Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus from either:
  - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
  - (B) The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2014 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1 of this title (relating to Requirements-General); or
- (3) complete a commission approved Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus training program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved driver/operator-aerial apparatus training program must consist of one of the following:
  - (A) completion of an in-state driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus program meeting the requirements of the applicable NFPA standard and conducted by a commission certified training provider, that was submitted and approved through the commission's training prior approval system; or
  - (B) completion of an out-of-state training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to meet the requirements of the applicable NFPA standard; or

(C) completion of a military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to meet the requirements of the applicable NFPA standard.

(b) Out-of-State or military training programs submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if the training addresses all job performance requirements of the applicable NFPA standard.

#### **§433.205. Examination Requirements.**

(a) Examination requirements in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus certification.

(b) Individuals will be permitted to take the commission examination for Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus by documenting, as a minimum, completion of the NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter I training, and completing a commission approved Driver/Operator-Aerial Apparatus training program.

#### **§433.207. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.**

Individuals completing a commission approved Driver/Operator-Aerial program; documenting an NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter I IFSAC seal and passing the applicable state examination, may be granted an IFSAC seal for Driver/Operator-Aerial by making application to the commission for the IFSAC seal and paying applicable fees. Individuals must submit the application and fee for the seal prior to the expiration of the examination in order to qualify for the IFSAC seal.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 7**

- 7. Review and Discussion of the 2024 Injury Report. (See attached)**

# 2024 Injury Report

An Annual Summary of Firefighter Injuries, Exposures, and Cancer Diagnoses Reported to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection in Calendar Year 2024

By  
Grace Wilson  
of the

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION**



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*This publication can be downloaded free of charge on-line:  
<https://www.tcfp.texas.gov/services/injury-reports>*

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## Mission

The commission shall gather and evaluate data on fire protection personnel injuries and develop recommendations for reducing injuries.

### Why we are collecting injury data

Under Texas Government Code §419.048, the Texas Legislature charged the commission with gathering and evaluating data on injuries. The rules requiring regulated entities to report injuries to the commission are in Texas Administrative Code §435.23. The commission encourages volunteer entities to report injuries so that it can gain as accurate a picture as possible concerning injury trends in the Texas fire service. The injury reporting program began in March of 2010.

### Information the commission collects

- Minor, serious, and fatal injuries,
- Exposures (toxic and pathogenic)
- Cancer diagnoses
- Activities where fire personnel are injured
- Types of injuries (burns, strain-sprains, wounds, etc)
- Body parts being injured
- Tasks performed at the time of injury
- Missed time
- Work assignment after injury
- Malfunctions/failures of personal protective equipment (PPE), self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), personal alert safety systems (PASS devices) and standard operating procedures (SOPs)

### How this will help the fire service

- Identify common injuries and exposures
- Identify trends in injuries and exposures
- Identify needed training
- Evaluate and find improvements in procedures

## Executive Summary

The information in this report is collected by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) via an on-line injury reporting application.

Under Texas Government Code §419.048, the Texas Commission on Fire Protection is charged with developing and establishing criteria to receive and analyze injury information pertaining to Texas firefighters. The commission reviews this information to develop recommendations to help reduce injuries to fire protection personnel. The commission provides this information to the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) by September 1 of each year for inclusion in the SFMO's annual Firefighter Fatality Investigations Report. The commission has enacted rules about reporting injuries in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 37, Chapter 435, and has established the criteria and policies for reporting and analyzing the information.

This report is a comprehensive analysis of injuries and exposures to Texas firefighters. These injuries and exposures were reported to the TCFP in 2024 by fire departments throughout the state, and this report contains charts and graphs depicting the results of the information that was collected. The report also compares Texas firefighter injury statistics from 2023 with national statistics that were gathered by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in 2023.

**40,888** = The number of "associated" individuals in our database, meaning those who are currently employed by a regulated fire department.

**1,811** = Total number of departments

**847** = Regulated departments

**964** = Nonregulated departments (due to being deactivated or not meeting the criteria to be regulated).

**485** = Regulated training facilities (fire department-based, online-based, and private)

**1,332** = Total number of departments and training facilities that are inspected and regulated by TCFP. \*

*\*Please note: A department may be listed as both a regulated fire department/fire marshal's office (FMO) and as a regulated training facility if the department possesses training facility certification(s). The biennial compliance inspection of a fire department/FMO is separate from the inspection of a department with a training facility designation, and thus would require separate compliance inspections.*

The commission originally built the data systems necessary to gather this information in 2010. In 2017 the data systems were migrated from a Microsoft Access database structure to a new system which was developed in-house and designed specifically to meet the information resource needs of the TCFP. The reporting process is

accomplished online via TCFP's FIDO system. Fire departments regulated by the commission have been notified of the requirement to report. Several volunteer departments, which are not regulated by the commission, are also participating voluntarily.

This report concludes with recommendations from the commission to help reduce the number of fire fighter injuries in Texas and to improve the injury reporting program.

## Abstract

This report contains data submitted by regulated and non-regulated entities.

### Grand Totals – 2024

Total number of incidents (injury reports) submitted: 4,115

Total number of individuals who sustained an injury or exposure: 4,092\* (A)

Total number of injuries reported: 3,550 (B)

Total number of exposures reported: 740 (C)

*\*Note that an individual could have more than one injury or could have an injury and an exposure. This explains why the total number of individuals who sustained an injury is less than the total number of injuries + total number of exposures. ( $A < B + C$ )*

It's important to remember that one incident report can have multiple individuals involved, and each of those individuals can have one or more injuries. For example:

James and Cory were burned in a fire while on duty. This resulted in:

- One incident (one injury report), with
- Two individuals who...
- Sustained three injuries
  - James was burned on the hand and arm (two injuries)
  - Cory was burned on the leg (one injury)

# State of Texas 2023 vs. NFPA 2023

## Comparison between the State of Texas (2023) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) U.S. Firefighter Injuries (2023)

For the purposes of comparison, the commission has mapped its categories to the NFPA categories as follows:

- “Fireground” includes the commission’s Fire Suppression and Rescue – Fire Related categories.
- “Non-Fire” includes Rescue Non-Fire, EMS and Hazmat.
- “Other On-Duty” includes Fire Prevention, Station Duties and Wellness/Fitness.

The NFPA’s “Responding and Returning” and “Training” categories appear to correspond closely to the commission’s categories. (The NFPA numbers include Texas statistics, although the reporting populations may not be the same.)

**Please keep in mind that the comparisons between Texas and the NFPA are using numbers from 2023**, and not 2024 data as in the remainder of this report. NFPA’s 2024 injury data will not be published and available until 2026.

## Comparing Texas 2023 and NFPA 2023

**Table 1: Comparison of Texas 2023 and NFPA 2023**

Category	Texas 2023		NFPA 2023	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fireground	911	20%	18,875	30%
Non-Fire	1,338	29%	13,275	21%
Other On-Duty	1,638	35%	11,800	19%
Training	571	12%	8,525	13%
Responding and Returning	199	4%	10,700	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,657</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>63,175</b>	<b>100%</b>

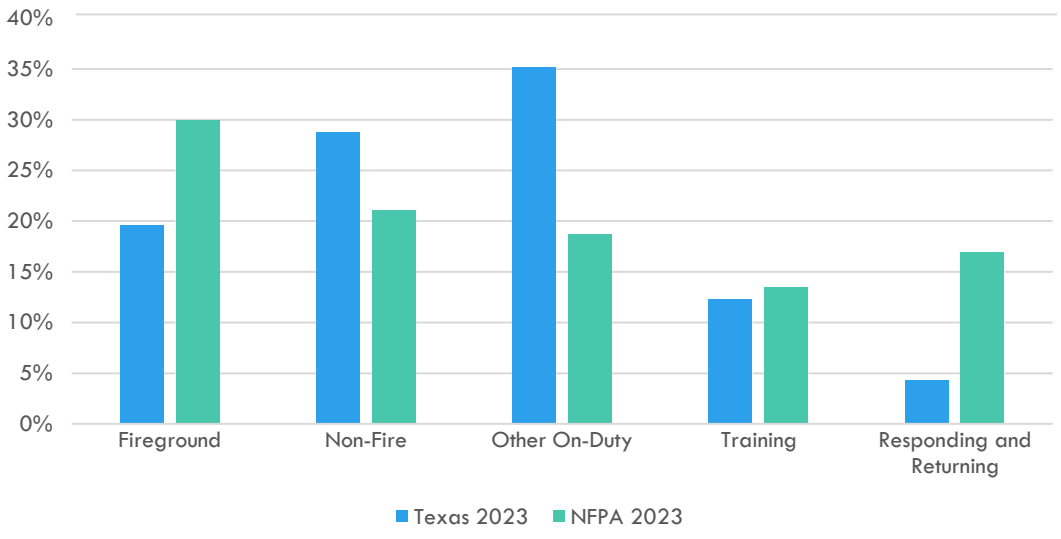
## Fatalities in 2023

**NFPA:** 89 on-duty firefighter fatalities

**Texas:** 2 reported fatalities (a possible stroke and a suicide)

All NFPA data in this report is from the United States Firefighter Injuries webpage, copyright 2024, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA.

**Figure 1: Injuries by Activity, percentages**  
(Comparing Texas 2023 and NFPA 2023)

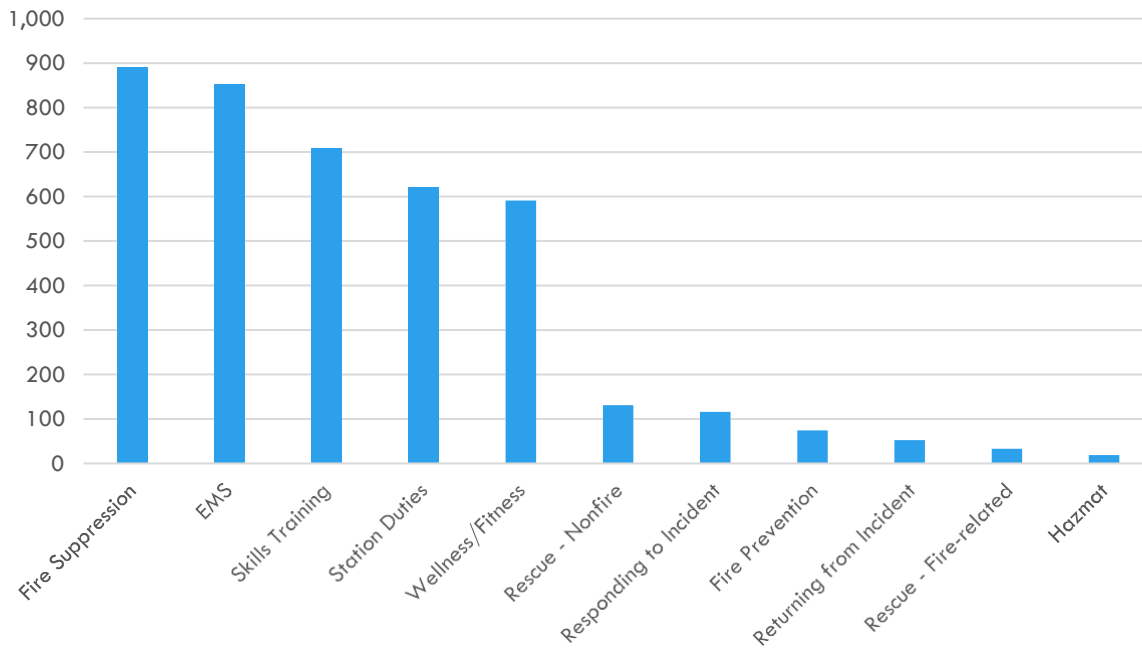


## Fire Protection Personnel Injuries

**Table 2: Total Injured or Exposed Individuals by Activity and Severity, 2024**

Activity	Minor	Serious	Fatal	Total	2023	2022
Fire Suppression	709	181	2	892	867	846
EMS	708	146	0	854	1,193	2,528
Skills Training	508	201	0	709	571	491
Station Duties	472	149	0	621	1,049	2,449
Wellness/Fitness	421	170	0	591	527	422
Rescue - Nonfire	107	24	0	131	105	142
Responding to Incident	80	36	0	116	127	137
Fire Prevention	61	13	0	74	62	100
Returning from Incident	32	20	0	52	72	52
Rescue - Fire-related	32	1	0	33	44	52
Hazmat	16	3	0	19	40	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,146</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,092</b>	<b>4,657</b>	<b>7,245</b>

**Figure 2: Total Injured or Exposed Individuals by Activity, 2024**



## Injuries/Exposures by Activity

### Definitions

**Minor** = An injury/exposure that does not result in the employee missing a full duty period.

**Serious** = An injury/exposure that results in the employee missing one or more full duty periods.

**Fatal** = The injured/exposed individual did not survive.

**Table 3: Minor Injury/Exposure Activities, 2020 – 2024**

Activity	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Fire Suppression	397	9%	537	12%	653	15%	677	20%	709	23%
EMS	2,529	56%	2,095	47%	1,461	34%	929	27%	708	23%
Skills Training	304	7%	303	7%	362	9%	416	12%	508	16%
Station Duties	722	16%	828	19%	1,132	27%	610	18%	472	15%
Wellness/Fitness	306	7%	311	7%	293	7%	378	11%	421	13%
Rescue - Non-fire	89	2%	94	2%	110	3%	86	3%	107	3%
Responding to Incident	68	1%	123	3%	97	2%	127	4%	80	3%
Fire Prevention	49	1%	40	1%	39	1%	45	1%	61	2%
Rescue - Fire-related	26	1%	41	1%	55	1%	38	1%	32	1%
Returning from Incident	28	1%	41	1%	31	1%	61	2%	32	1%
Hazmat	22	0%	41	1%	22	1%	36	1%	16	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,454</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,255</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,146</b>	<b>100%</b>

(Numbers in red above = lowest number of injuries for the five-year period.)

**Table 4: Serious Injury/Exposure Activities, 2020 – 2024**

Activity	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Skills Training	125	7%	120	6%	129	4%	155	12%	201	21%
Fire Suppression	127	7%	153	8%	192	6%	190	15%	181	19%
Wellness/Fitness	116	6%	139	7%	129	4%	149	12%	170	18%
Station Duties	731	39%	766	38%	1,316	44%	437	34%	149	16%
EMS	660	35%	755	37%	1,067	36%	264	21%	146	15%
Responding to Incident	23	1%	35	2%	40	1%	35	3%	36	4%
Rescue - Non-fire	29	2%	22	1%	32	1%	19	1%	24	3%
Returning from Incident	13	1%	24	1%	21	1%	11	1%	20	2%
Fire Prevention	27	1%	11	1%	61	2%	17	1%	13	1%
Hazmat	7	0%	3	0%	4	0%	4	0%	3	0%
Rescue - Fire-related	3	0%	10	0%	5	0%	6	0%	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,996</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>100%</b>

(Numbers in red above = lowest number of injuries for the five-year period.)

## Fatalities

**Table 5: Number of Individuals Who Sustained Fatal Injuries/Exposures, 2024**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fire Suppression	2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>

The TCFP’s “2024 Injury Report” includes two fatalities, both of which occurred during firefighting operations. The fatalities noted in this report include only those that were reported to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) by the entities it regulates.

According to the Texas State Fire Marshal’s Office’s “Firefighter Fatality Investigation Annual Report” dated October 2024, they conducted four Texas fire fighter fatality incident investigations during their fiscal year 2024. All four of those deaths were from volunteer fire departments which the TCFP does not regulate.

Comprehensive information about these fatality investigations may be found on the State Fire Marshal’s Office’s website at the following address:

<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/fmloddannals.html>

## Emergency vs. Non-Emergency Injuries

**Table 6: Number of Injured Individuals by Emergency Activity and Severity, 2024**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Total</b>
EMS	708	146	0	854
Fire Suppression	709	181	2	892
Rescue - Non-fire related	107	24	0	131
Responding to Incident	80	36	0	116
Returning from Incident	32	20	0	52
Hazmat	16	3	0	19
Rescue - Fire related	32	1	0	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,097</b>

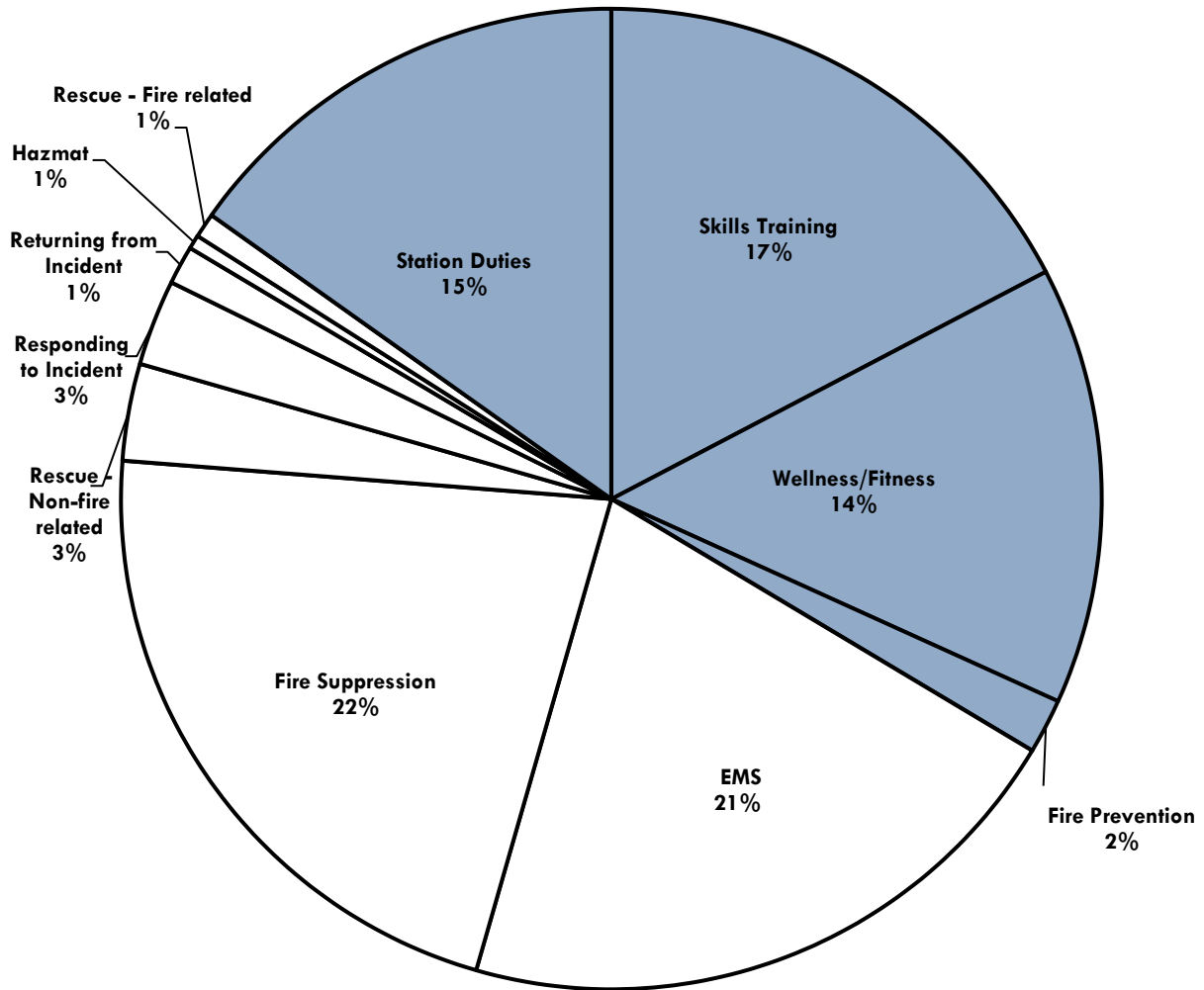
**Table 7: Number of Injured Individuals by Non-Emergency Activity and Severity, 2024**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Total</b>
Station Duties	472	149	0	621
Skills Training	508	201	0	709
Wellness/Fitness	421	170	0	591
Fire Prevention	61	13	0	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,995</b>

**Figure 3: Percentages of Injured Individuals in Emergency and Non-Emergency Activities, 2024**

Emergency Activities= 52%

Non-emergency Activities = 48%

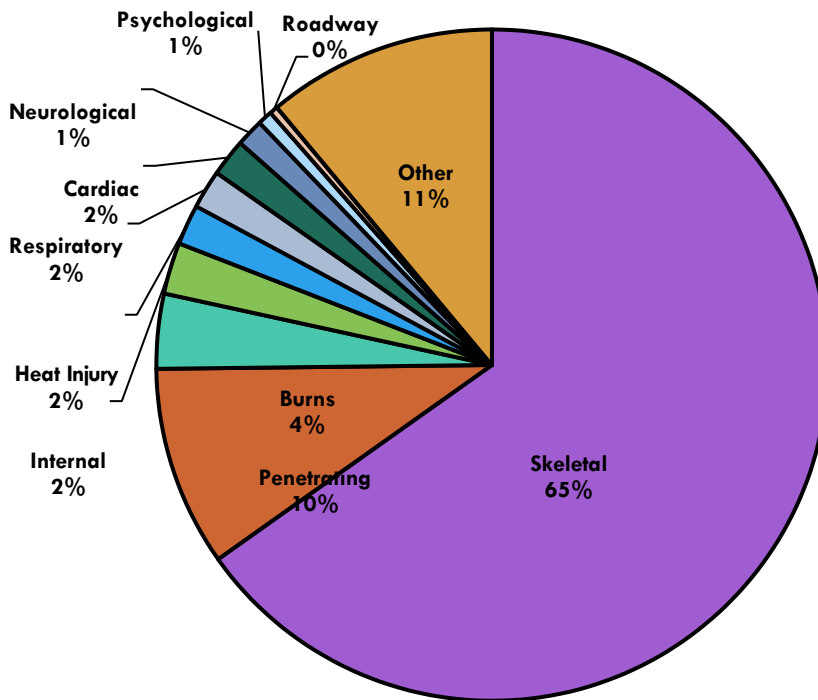


## Types of Injuries

**Table 8: Types of Injuries, 2024**

Type of Injury	2024	
	Count	Percent
Skeletal	2,314	65%
Penetrating	342	10%
Burns	128	4%
Internal	88	2%
Heat Injury	69	2%
Respiratory	66	2%
Cardiac	64	2%
Neurological	47	1%
Psychological	25	1%
Roadway	14	0%
Other	393	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 4: Types of Injuries, 2024**

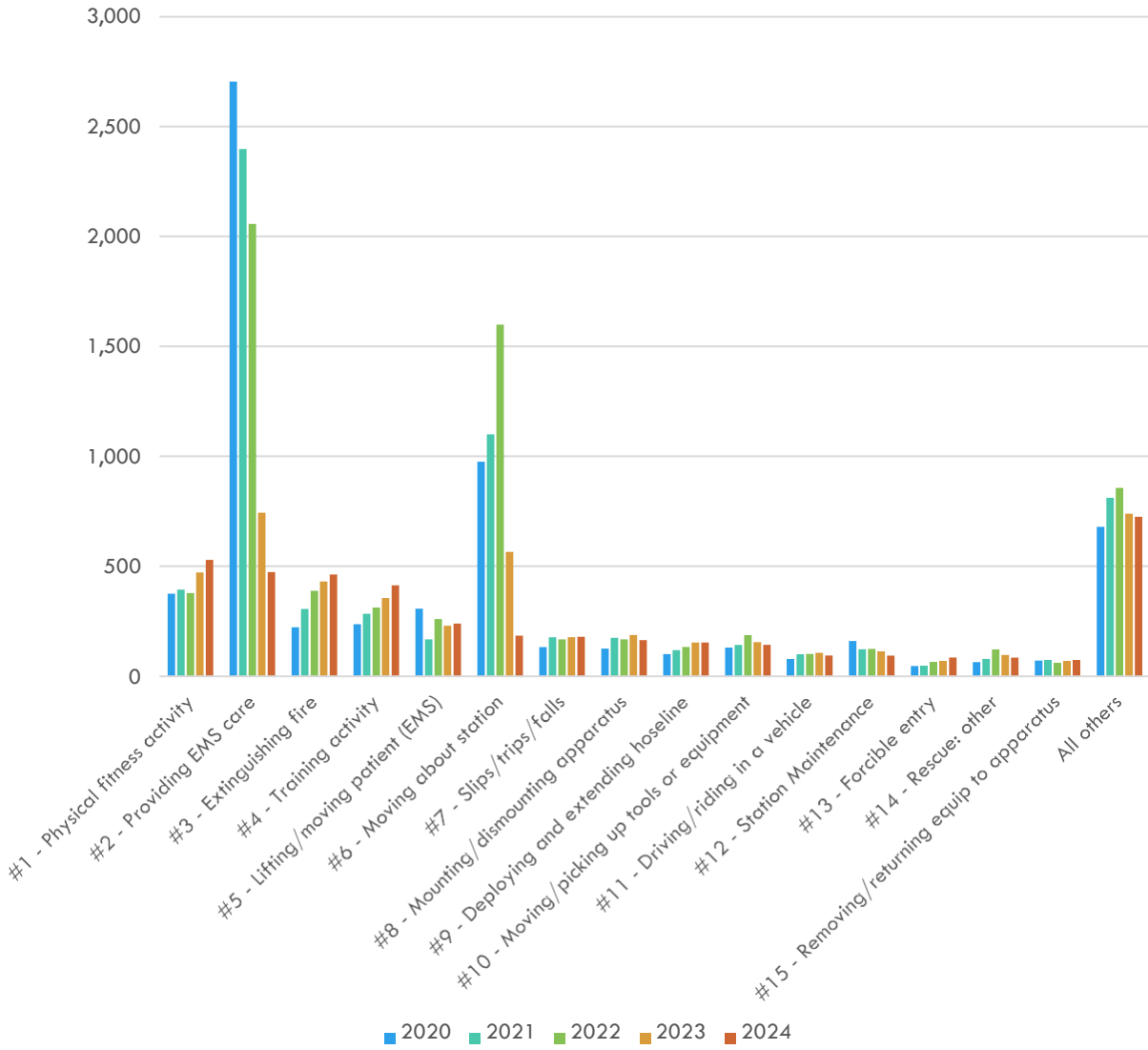


## Task at Time of Injury

**Table 9: Top 15 Tasks at Time of Injury, 2020 – 2024 (ordered by 2024, descending)**

<b>Task</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
#1 - Physical fitness activity	376	394	378	471	529
#2 - Providing EMS care	2,704	2,398	2,057	743	473
#3 - Extinguishing fire	222	306	389	430	462
#4 - Training activity	236	284	312	355	413
#5 - Lifting/moving patient (EMS)	307	168	260	229	239
#6 - Moving about station	975	1,100	1,599	565	184
#7 - Slips/trips/falls	132	177	168	177	179
#8 - Mounting/dismounting apparatus	125	175	168	187	164
#9 - Deploying and extending hose line	100	119	133	153	153
#10 - Moving/picking up tools or equipment	130	142	187	155	142
#11 - Driving/riding in a vehicle	77	100	101	106	94
#12 - Station Maintenance	161	123	124	113	93
#13 - Forcible entry	46	46	65	67	85
#14 - Rescue: other	64	79	123	97	84
#15 - Removing/returning equip to apparatus	71	72	59	69	72
All others	680	812	857	740	726
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,406</b>	<b>6,495</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>4,657</b>	<b>4,092</b>

**Figure 5: Top 15 Tasks at Time of Injury, 2020 – 2024**



## Injuries by Body Part

**Table 10: Injuries by Body Part Type, 2020 – 2024**

<b>Injured Body Part</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Upper Extremities	700	812	859	975	984
Lower Extremities	616	724	787	882	890
Back	445	492	511	547	580
Head	197	248	323	315	326
Multiple Parts	281	284	389	327	316
Internal	144	402	337	158	162
Chest	107	124	146	109	143
Neck	33	38	50	77	90
Hip	29	35	24	31	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>3,159</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>3,421</b>	<b>3,550</b>

**Table 11: Injuries by Body Part Sub-Type, 2020 – 2024**

<b>Body Part by Sub-Type</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Back: Back	191	191	214	283	280
Back: Buttocks	2	2	1	3	2
Back: Lower Back	248	287	284	247	288
Back: Neck	1	8	5	4	4
Back: Spine	3	4	7	10	6
Chest: Abdomen	2	3	3	1	5
Chest: Abdominal Area	9	5	9	5	13
Chest: Chest	96	116	134	103	125
Head: Brain	n/a	7	24	20	43
Head: Cheek	4	7	7	4	2
Head: Chin	4	2	3	5	1
Head: Ear	50	52	50	71	80
Head: Eye	44	50	58	50	80
Head: Face	78	57	32	34	30
Head: Forehead	n/a	3	31	40	34

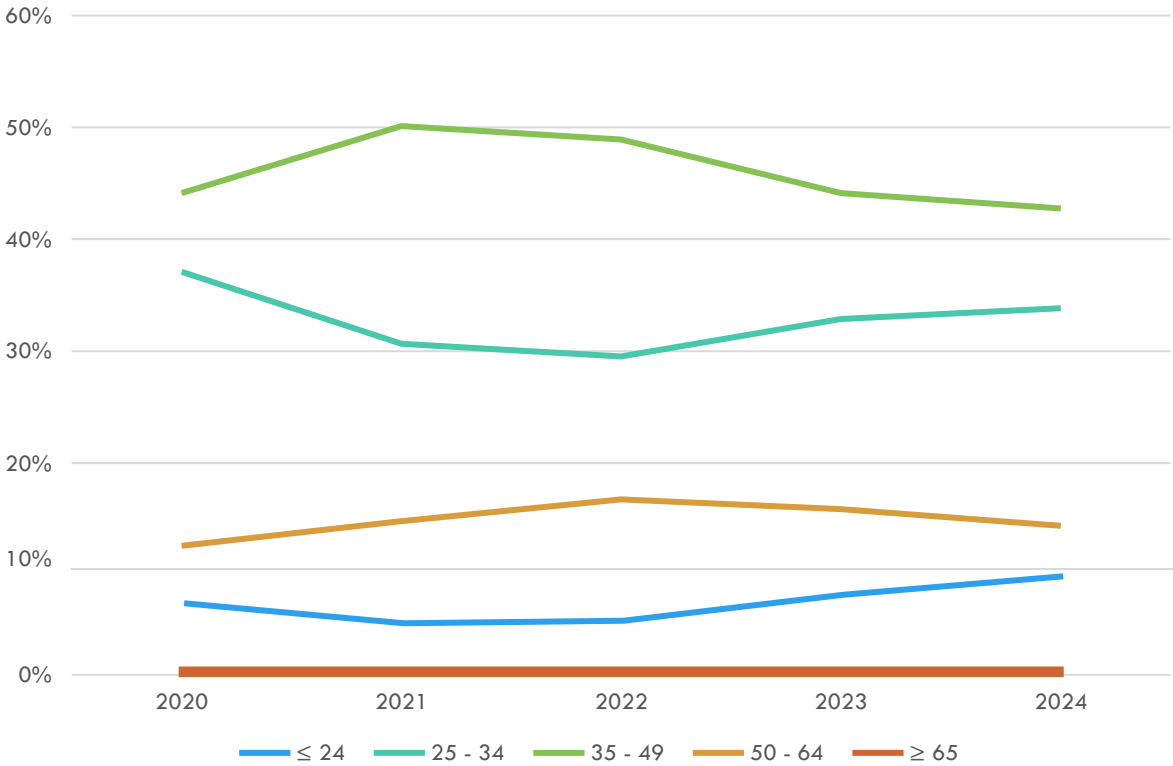
Head: Jaw	2	2	0	0	1
Head: Mouth	10	8	7	14	11
Head: Nose	3	9	60	45	8
Head: Skull	2	51	51	32	36
Hip: Groin	9	12	6	8	22
Hip: Hip	18	23	16	18	33
Hip: Pelvis	2	0	2	5	4
Internal: Genito-urinary	4	1	2	7	7
Internal: Heart	4	6	16	10	15
Internal: Internal	74	264	156	64	68
Internal: Intestinal tract	3	2	1	4	8
Internal: Lungs	51	114	150	47	41
Internal: Stomach	8	14	12	26	23
Internal: Trachea	0	1	0	0	0
Lower Extremities: Ankle	135	171	162	201	208
Lower Extremities: Foot	78	78	95	100	109
Lower Extremities: Knee	252	316	357	372	364
Lower Extremities: Lower leg	95	104	59	133	142
Lower Extremities: Toes	13	14	17	18	22
Lower Extremities: Upper Leg	43	41	67	58	45
Multiple Parts: Lower Body	20	15	16	33	25
Multiple Parts: Unknown	27	22	39	31	39
Multiple Parts: Upper Body	65	74	65	82	102
Multiple Parts: Whole Body	169	173	269	181	150
Neck: Neck	30	37	49	73	83
Neck: Throat	3	1	1	4	7
Upper Extremities: Elbow	34	44	63	69	73
Upper Extremities: Hands	319	315	356	356	361
Upper Extremities: Lower Arm	55	55	49	84	70
Upper Extremities: Shoulder	170	270	245	311	327
Upper Extremities: Upper Arm	45	68	94	88	107
Upper Extremities: Wrist	77	60	52	67	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>3,159</b>	<b>3,396</b>	<b>3,421</b>	<b>3,550</b>

# Individuals by Age Group

**Table 12: Individuals by Age Group, 2020 – 2024**

Age Group	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
≤ 24	389	6.10%	279	4.31%	329	4.54%	317	6.86%	348	8.50%
25 - 34	2,365	37.07%	1,986	30.65%	2,141	29.52%	1,519	32.87%	1,384	33.82%
35 - 49	2,815	44.13%	3,248	50.12%	3,548	48.92%	2,039	44.12%	1,750	42.77%
50 - 64	805	12.62%	961	14.83%	1,216	16.77%	735	15.91%	590	14.42%
≥ 65	5	0.08%	6	0.09%	19	0.26%	11	0.24%	20	0.49%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,379</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6,480</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>7,253</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,621</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,092</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Figure 6: Individuals by Age Group, percentages, 2020 – 2024**



## Activities Resulting in Lost Time

**Table 13: Activities Individuals Were Doing That Resulted in Lost Time, 2024 Totals**

Activity	Count	Days Missed	
		Average	Sum
Skills Training	125	34	4,351
Fire Suppression	98	31	3,071
Wellness/Fitness	98	34	3,419
Station Duties	88	33	2,939
EMS	82	29	2,459
Responding to Incident	19	30	575
Returning from Incident	14	46	649
Rescue - Nonfire related	11	28	312
Fire Prevention	10	8	88
Hazmat	1	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17,866</b>

**Table 14: Activities Individuals Were Doing That Resulted in Lost Time, 2024 Between 1 and 30 Days**

Activity	Count	Days Missed	
		Average	Sum
Skills Training	87	12	1,080
Fire Suppression	71	11	836
Station Duties	69	11	810
Wellness/Fitness	67	11	795
EMS	61	12	757
Responding to incident	15	11	168
Fire Prevention	10	8	88
Rescue - nonfire related	9	13	117
Returning from incident	9	13	123
Hazmat	1	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4,777</b>

**Table 15: Activities Individuals Were Doing That Resulted in Lost Time, 2024  
Between 31 and 90 Days**

Activity	Count	Days Missed	
		Average	Sum
Skills Training	25	45	1,141
Wellness/Fitness	21	51	1,079
Fire Suppression	18	47	860
EMS	14	52	740
Station Duties	12	53	644
Responding to incident	3	66	198
Returning from incident	2	52	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>4,767</b>

**Table 16: Activities Individuals Were Doing That Resulted in Lost Time, 2024  
91+ Days**

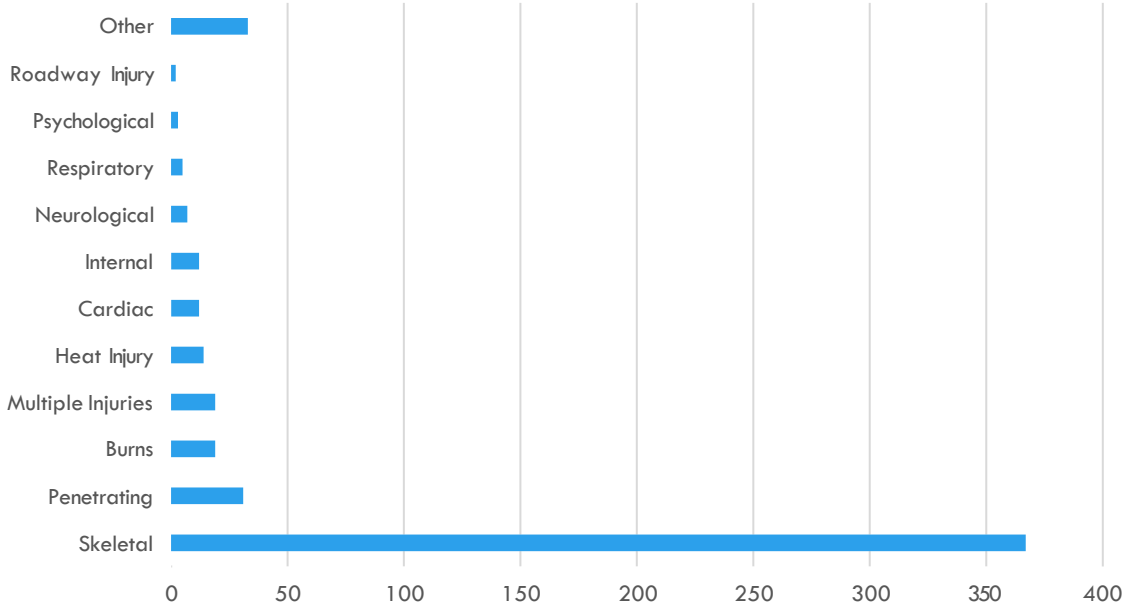
Activity	Count	Days Missed	
		Average	Sum
Skills Training	13	163	2,130
Wellness/Fitness	10	154	1,545
Fire Suppression	9	152	1,375
EMS	7	137	962
Station Duties	7	212	1,485
Returning from incident	3	140	421
Rescue - nonfire related	2	97	195
Responding to incident	1	209	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>8,322</b>

# Types of Injuries with Lost Time

Table 17: Types of Injuries Resulting in Lost Time, 2024

<u>Type of Injury</u>	<u>Count</u>
Skeletal	367
Penetrating	31
Burns	19
Multiple Injuries	19
Heat Injury	14
Cardiac	12
Internal	12
Neurological	7
Respiratory	5
Psychological	3
Roadway Injury	2
<u>Other</u>	<u>33</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>524</b>

Figure 7: Types of Injuries Resulting in Lost Time, 2024



## Burn Injuries

**Table 18: All Burns, 2020 – 2024**

All Burns - Types	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Heat/Fire (thermal)	80	66	83	120	95
Scald or Steam	11	12	19	18	0
Chemical	2	3	6	6	6
Electrical	3	4	4	0	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>107</b>

**Table 19: Burns by Body Part Sub-Type, 2020 – 2024**

Body Part Sub-Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Back: Back	0	2	2	2	2
Back: Buttocks	0	0	n/a	1	0
Back: Lower Back	0	0	0	0	1
Back: Neck	0	0	0	0	0
Back: Spine	0	0	0	0	0
Chest: Abdomen	0	0	0	0	1
Chest: Abdominal Area	0	0	0	0	0
Chest: Chest	0	0	3	0	0
Head: Brain	n/a	0	0	0	0
Head: Cheek	1	1	4	2	2
Head: Chin	3	0	1	2	0
Head: Ear	12	13	9	23	23
Head: Eye	3	2	0	2	8
Head: Face	8	2	6	4	2
Head: Forehead	n/a	1	2	2	1
Head: Mouth	0	0	0	1	0
Head: Nose	0	1	0	1	1
Head: Skull	0	0	1	1	0
Hip: Groin	0	0	0	0	0
Hip: Hip	0	1	0	0	1
Hip: Pelvis	0	n/a	0	0	0
Internal: Genito-urinary	0	0	0	0	1
Internal: Heart	0	0	0	0	0
Internal: Internal	0	0	0	0	0

Internal: Intestinal tract	0	0	0	0	0
Internal: Lungs	0	0	0	1	0
Internal: Stomach	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Extremities: Ankle	1	1	1	0	0
Lower Extremities: Foot	4	3	4	2	1
Lower Extremities: Knee	1	0	0	2	1
Lower Extremities: Lower Leg	1	3	5	4	2
Lower Extremities: Toes	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Extremities: Upper Leg	1	0	1	3	1
Multiple Parts: Lower Body	0	0	1	2	0
Multiple Parts: Unknown	0	0	1	1	0
Multiple Parts: Upper Body	11	7	7	11	15
Multiple Parts: Whole Body	0	3	4	4	4
Neck: Neck	2	2	5	6	3
Neck: Throat	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Extremities: Elbow	1	2	2	1	0
Upper Extremities: Hands	20	24	21	22	24
Upper Extremities: Lower Arm	14	8	10	22	14
Upper Extremities: Shoulder	4	3	12	7	8
Upper Extremities: Upper Arm	0	3	8	8	10
Upper Extremities: Wrist	9	3	2	7	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>128</b>

## Exposures

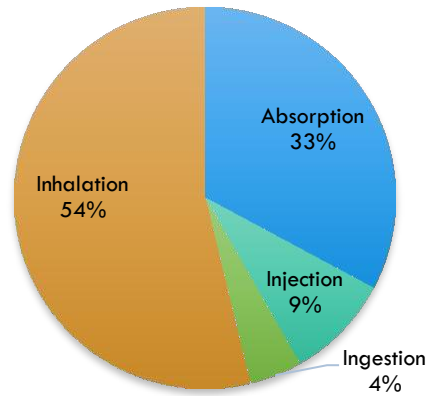
**Table 20: Exposures by Sub-Type, 2020 – 2024**

<b>Exposure + Sub-Type</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Chemical: Ammonia	0	6	0	1	0
Chemical: Battery Acid	0	2	1	0	4
Chemical: Benzene	1	1	0	1	0
Chemical: Bleach	0	2	0	0	0
Chemical: Not listed	70	40	25	72	67
Chemical: Unidentified	27	34	42	42	40
Physical: Animal venom	5	7	3	8	11
Physical: Meningitis	33	3	3	41	38
Physical: Not listed	42	27	35	27	45
Physical: Plant toxin	12	24	22	17	35
Physical: Radiation	1	0	0	5	0
Physical: Unidentified	13	17	24	28	24
Physical: UV Light	1	0	1	0	17
Respiratory: Blood	78	54	48	94	73
Respiratory: COVID 19	1,715	2,878	3,466	630	35
Respiratory: Influenza	7	2	2	1	0
Respiratory: Not listed	56	8	9	7	32
Respiratory: Saliva	28	15	23	22	14
Respiratory: Tuberculosis	31	16	29	55	61
Respiratory: Unidentified	6	19	13	62	25
Respiratory: Vomit	13	4	4	9	9
Other: Asbestos	1	109	30	31	63
Other: Carbon Monoxide	6	2	11	15	6
Other: Carcinogenic Substances	13	15	21	75	19
Other: Contaminated Water/Sewage	11	8	21	4	14
Other: Chlorine	n/a	6	3	1	7
Other: Heavy Metals	1	0	1	3	9
Other: Mold	9	4	29	42	16
Other: Smoke/Products of Combustion	19	37	81	46	48
Other: Virus	1,878	266	203	61	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>3,606</b>	<b>4,150</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>740</b>

**Table 21: Exposure by Route, 2024**

<u>Route</u>	<u>Count</u>
Inhalation	398
Absorption	243
Injection/Puncture	66
Ingestion	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>740</b>

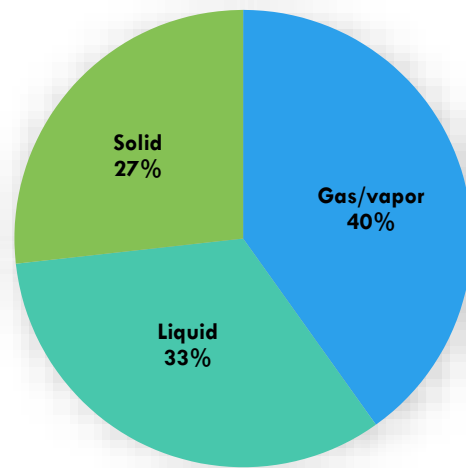
**Figure 8: Exposure by Route, 2024, percentages**



**Table 22: Exposure by Substance, 2024**

<u>Substance</u>	<u>Count</u>
Gas/vapor	297
Liquid	245
Solid	198
<b>Total</b>	<b>740</b>

**Figure 9: Exposure by Substance, 2024, percentages**



# Cancer

In June of 2019, the Governor of Texas signed Senate Bill 2551 (SB 2551) which expanded the scope of the law in which firefighters and EMTs who suffer from cancer are presumed to have developed the condition during the course and scope of their employment. The types of cancer this law addresses include:

- cancers that originate at the stomach, colon, rectum, skin, prostate, testis or brain
- non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- multiple myeloma
- malignant melanoma
- renal cell carcinoma

**Reports of cancer diagnoses:**

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
47	41	70	91	98

The TCFP received **98** reports of cancer diagnoses from fire departments in 2024:

Skin – 49 reports  
 (Males: aged N/A, 25, 36, 37, 38, 39, 39, 39, 40, 40, 40, 41, 41, 42, 43, 43, 43, 43, 44, 44, 45, 45, 45, 46, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 51, 53, 53, 53, 53, 54, 54, 54, 54, 55, 55, 56, 57, 58, 58, 61, 63)  
 (Females: aged 36, 49, 51, 51)

Prostate – 11 reports  
 (Males: 41, 45, 48, 51, 54, 57, 57, 58, 58, 58, 63)

Testicular – 7 reports  
 (Males: 18, 27, 29, 46, 47, 48, 54)

Blood/lymphatic – 6 reports  
 (Males: 37, 46, 48, 52, 53, 60)

Thyroid – 5 reports

(Males: 30, 38, 42, 47, 52)

Colon/rectum – 3 reports  
(Males: 33, 46, 46)

Kidney – 3 reports  
(Males: 40, 53)  
(Female: 39)

Brain – 2 reports  
(Male: 35)  
(Female: 55)

Stomach – 2 reports  
(Males: 47, 54)

Lung – 1 report  
(Male: 53)

Pancreatic – 1 report  
(Male: 75)

Type not reported/other – 8 reports  
(Males: 30, 37, 49, 50, 53, 59, 60, 65)

#### **A Reminder for Fire Departments**

Any injuries to fire protection personnel that are reported to the Texas Worker's Compensation Commission must be reported to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. This includes cancer diagnoses.

**The commission strongly encourages fire departments to report cancer diagnoses;** the commission recognizes that the number of job-related cancers reported during this time-period represents only a fraction of the cases that Texas fire departments are currently managing. There is a growing awareness of the impact that cancer is having on fire protection personnel nationwide, and the commission urges departments to use this reporting tool to help contribute to the education and awareness of the issue in Texas.

# SOP Issues; PPE and PASS Failures

**Table 23: Injuries Attributed to SOP Issues, 2024**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Total</b>	<u>Previous years' totals</u>			
				<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Fire Suppression	6	6	12	2	7	8	10
EMS	5	0	5	0	1	1	18
Station Duties	1	2	3	0	4	1	2
Skills Training	1	0	1	2	3	2	5
Wellness/Fitness	0	1	1	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>36</b>

**Table 24: Injuries Attributed to PPE and PASS Failures, 2024**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Total</b>	<u>Previous years' totals</u>			
				<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Fire Suppression	16	5	21	18	7	4	7
Skills Training	5	1	6	3	1	1	1
EMS	2	0	2	1	0	1	4
Station Duties	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>

## Recommendations

The commission would like to thank Texas fire departments for their ongoing participation in reporting fire protection personnel injuries. This report would not be possible without their efforts.

Based on their review of the data contained within this report, the commission offers the following recommendations and reminders for the Texas Fire Service:

**#1 – #5 below are the recommendations from 2023. The commission must make new recommendations for 2024.**

1. Follow *NFPA 1851: Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting* as required by state law.
2. Continue to review and practice roadway safety and traffic incident management practices.
3. Review all of your department's SOPs with a focus on injury prevention, emphasizing skills training and wellness/fitness in the SOPs.
4. Annual cancer screenings for all Texas firefighters.
5. Report all cancer diagnoses through the injury reporting application in FIDO, as well as all suicides that the fire department is aware of.

## Commission-Adopted Standards

The commission has adopted NFPA and other nationally recognized standards to help keep Texas fire protection personnel safe. This list summarizes the relationships between some of the Texas laws and national standards and is not intended to be all-inclusive:

### Texas Government Code

[§419.040, Protective Clothing](#)

[§419.041, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus](#)

[§419.042, Personal Alert Safety Systems](#)

[§419.043, Applicable National Fire Protection Association Standard](#)

[§419.044, Incident Management System](#)

[§419.045, Personnel Accountability System](#)

[§419.046, Fire Protection Personnel Operating at Emergency Incidents](#)

[§419.047, Commission Enforcement](#)

### Texas Administrative Code

[CHAPTER 425 FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS](#)

[§443.9 National Fire Protection Association Standard](#)

[CHAPTER 435 FIRE FIGHTER SAFETY](#)

[§435.21 Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative](#)

[§435.23 Fire Fighter Injuries](#)

[§435.25 Courage to be Safe So Everyone Goes Home Program](#)

[§435.27 Live Fire Training Structure Evolutions](#)

CHAPTER 451 FIRE OFFICER

CHAPTER 457 INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER CERTIFICATION

Commission's web page

NFPA Standards adopted by the commission

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 8**

8. **Future Meeting Dates.**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 9**

**9. Future Meeting Agenda Items.**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 10**

**10. Adjourn.**