



# NFPA Investigator DPSST Applicant Guide to Certification

This guide is provided to the Oregon fire service as an overview for overview on applying for the DPSST certification of NFPA 1033: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators.

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## Task Force Overview

On April 5, 2022, the NFPA Fire Investigator Task Force convened at DPSST to review and discuss the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, 2022 Edition. At the time of the Task Force's meeting, the Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) for fire related to NFPA Fire Investigator referred to the 2014 Edition of the NFPA standard. It was the intent of the Task Force to evaluate the previously adopted standard and compare it against the 2022 Edition of NFPA 1033. As a result of their work, the Task Force established the importance of the Oregon fire service maintaining the most current standards available from NFPA and made the recommendation to adopt the 2022 Edition of NFPA 1033 into OAR. The Task Force's decisions then moved to the Fire Policy Committee (FPC), Public Comment period, and Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board), resulting in the official OAR update of this standard as of August 1, 2022.

# PATHS TO CERTIFICATION

The Task Force determined three tracks to certification are appropriate and would give the Oregon fire service several options toward obtaining certifications. The tracks are as follows:

- Track I: if an applicant holds a valid International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) or National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator (CFEI) certification, the applicant is neither required to complete the NFPA Fire Investigator Task Book nor the DPSST state examination. The Task Force felt the requirements to obtain these two levels of certification meet or exceed training as well as the examination and Task Book completion.
- Track II: if an applicant holds a valid IAAI Fire Investigator Technician (FIT) certification or has successfully completed the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal's 20F039 Fire Origin and Cause Investigator tested course, the applicant does not need to complete the DPSST state examination but does need to complete an NFPA Fire Investigator Task Book. The Task Force felt that since these two classes have relevant examinations, taking the DPSST state examination is not necessary. The training for these courses is not enough to supersede the need to complete the NFPA Fire Investigator Task Book.
- Track III: if an applicant completes other training not listed in Track I or Track II that meets or exceeds NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, they also must complete an NFPA Fire Investigator Task Book and pass the DPSST state examination with a 75% or more.

Track Options	Certification Level	Task Book Required?	DPSST State Exam Required?
Track I	IAAI CFI or NAFI Certified	No	No
Track II	IAAI FIT Certified or 20F039 Course Completion	Yes	No
Track III	Other Training Meeting or Exceeding NFPA 1033	Yes	Yes

# TASK BOOK INFORMATION

The Task Force determined it is best suited for the NFPA Fire Investigator to remain at three evaluator check boxes within the Task Book for most job performance requirements. The Task Force did recognize a few of the Job Performance Requirements (JPR) within the Task Books are difficult to obtain yet covered thoroughly in specified courses. Those JPRs are 4.2.9, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, and 4.7.3. The Task Force determined that for candidates who take the specified courses, they do not need to complete the three corresponding JPRs. Those that do not take these courses must complete the JPRs. The course options that fulfill the JPRs are as follows:

- JPR 4.2.9: either successfully perform the three JPRs for a qualified evaluator or take the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Post Blast Investigative Techniques course, New Mexico Tech's Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings (IRTB) course, or equivalent course.
- JPR 4.4.2: either successfully perform the three JPRs for a qualified evaluator or take the International Association of Arson Investigators' Evidence Collection Technician (IAAI-ECT) course or equivalent course.
- JPR 4.4.3: either successfully perform the three JPRs for a qualified evaluator or take the International Association of Arson Investigators' Evidence Collection Technician (IAAI-ECT) course or equivalent course.
- JPR 4.4.4: either successfully perform the three JPRs for a qualified evaluator or take the International Association of Arson Investigators' Evidence Collection Technician (IAAI-ECT) course or equivalent course.
- JPR 4.4.5: either successfully perform the three JPRs for a qualified evaluator or take the International Association of Arson Investigators' Evidence Collection Technician (IAAI-ECT) course or equivalent course.
- JPR 4.7.3: either successfully perform the three JPRs for a qualified evaluator or take IAAI's Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony course, R0790 National Fire Academy (NFA) Fire Investigation: Case Preparation and Testimony course, or equivalent course.

For the aforementioned JPRs, the Task Book sign off section within the Task Book has the option for either three evaluators to sign off on task performances or one signature for taking the class. A copy of proof of successful course completion should be provided to the fire service agency for the evaluator's review and maintain or the agency records.





# MAINTENANCE RECERTIFICATION

The following updates will take place during the 2022-24 Maintenance Re-Certification cycle and do not effect the Maintenance Re-Certification paperwork currently due by December 31, 2022.

The new NFPA 1033 standard outlines in Job Performance Requirement (JPR) 4.1.7.3 that certified NFPA Fire Investigators are required to “complete and document a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education training every five years by attending formal education courses, workshops, and seminars”. In order to fulfill this requirement, a new “Investigator Track” has been established in addition to the currently established “Operations”, “Instructor”, and “Prevention/Public Education/Administration” Maintenance Re-Certification tracks. All of these tracks have specified hours to complete required service delivery, task performance, and/or continuing education and training in order to maintain certifications every two years. Though the newly proposed Maintenance Re-Certification requirement for NFPA Fire Investigators is 40 hours every five years per NFPA specifications, the process for fire service agencies to complete the paperwork for Maintenance Re-Certification will remain at every two years. It will be up to each Oregon fire service agency to ensure their NFPA Fire Investigators are meeting this requirement through courses, workshops, and/or seminars and that these trainings are documented properly. Agency designees tasked with completing the necessary documentation for Maintenance Re-Certification would need to ensure that the NFPA Fire Investigators at their department are taking the necessary steps toward meet this new obligation.

**In summation, beginning in the 2022-24 Maintenance Re-Certification cycle, all certified NFPA Fire Investigators must have 40 hours of formal education, workshops, and/or seminars documented every five years to maintain certification.**

The education, workshops, and seminars can be any continuing education related to the NFPA Fire Investigator field. The Task Force identified several reduced and no cost options for fulfilling this requirement if funds are an issue. Those include, and may not be limited to, opportunities from [Certified Fire Investigator \(CFI\) Trainer](#), [National Fire Academy \(NFA\)](#), and [International Association of Arson Investigators \(IAAI\)](#)). There are also training scholarships available from the IAAI, both on the national level and the through the Oregon Chapter.

# OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

The following amendments for OAR 259-009-0005, OAR 259-009-0062 and OAR 259-009-0065 include recommended additions noted with **bold and underlined** text and deletions noted with ~~striketrough~~ text. For ease of review, only the amended sections of the rule have been included (omissions are noted with \*\*\*).

## 259-009-0005 Definitions

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(48) “NFPA Fire Investigator” ~~means an individual who conducts post fire investigations to determine the cause and the point of origin of a fire. This individual has met the job performance requirements of NFPA Standard 1033:~~ **means a person who has demonstrated the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct, coordinate, and complete a fire investigation.**

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## 259-009-0062 Fire Service Professional Certification

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(2) The following standards for fire service professionals are adopted by reference:

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~~(f) The provisions of the NFPA Standard 1033, 2014 Edition, entitled “Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator” are adopted subject to the following definitions and requirements:~~

~~(A) Applicants for certification as NFPA Fire Investigator must:~~

~~(i) Successfully complete a Department-approved task book;~~

~~(ii) Achieve a passing score of 75% or better on the Department’s written Fire Investigator exam unless exempt from the exam as defined in the following paragraph (2)(f)(B); and~~

~~(iii) Furnish proof that they have successfully completed all required course work or have provided equivalent training documents.~~

~~(B) Upon submission of proof of valid certification, applicants for certification as NFPA Fire Investigator are exempt from the requirement to complete the Department’s written Fire Investigator exam if they currently hold any of the following certifications:~~

~~(i) International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Certified Fire Investigator (CFI); or~~

~~(ii) International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Fire Investigation Technician~~

# OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CONTINUED

(FIT); or

(iii) National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI);

**(f) The provisions of the NFPA Standard 1033, 2022 Edition, entitled “Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator,” are adopted. Applicants for certification as NFPA Fire Investigator may obtain certification through one of the following options:**

**(A) Complete training to meet the job performance requirements defined in chapter 4 of the NFPA Standard 1033, complete a Department-approved task book for Fire Investigator, and achieve a passing score of 75% or better on the DPSST Fire Investigator Examination.**

**(B) Complete the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s Fire Origin and Cause Investigator course and complete a Department-approved task book for Fire Investigator. This option does not require the completion of the DPSST Fire Investigator Examination.**

**(C) Hold current certification as International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Fire Investigation Technician (FIT) and complete a Department-approved task book for Fire Investigator. This option does not require the completion of the DPSST Fire Investigator Examination.**

**(D) Hold current certification as International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) or National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI). This option does not require the completion of a task book or the DPSST Fire Investigator Examination.**

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259-009-0065 Maintenance

(1) Fire service professionals are required to successfully perform the essential functions for each certification they hold in order to maintain the certification.

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(5) If a Fire Training Officer chooses to verify maintenance requirements through training or education, the fire service professional must satisfy the minimum number of hours identified for the certification track.

(a) The minimum number of hours may be satisfied through any combination of service delivery, task performance and education or training as determined by the Fire Training Officer, **unless otherwise noted.**

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(6) Certification Tracks and Annual, Minimum Hour Requirements.

# OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CONTINUED

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(c) Prevention/Public Education/Administration Track. The Prevention/Public Education/Administration certification track requires a minimum of 12 hours completed annually and includes the following certifications:

NFPA Fire and Life Safety Educator I;  
NFPA Fire and Life Safety Educator II;  
NFPA Fire and Life Safety Educator III;  
NFPA Fire Inspector I;  
NFPA Fire Inspector II;  
NFPA Fire Inspector III;  
NFPA Fire Investigator (**through December 31, 2022**);  
NFPA Fire Officer III;  
NFPA Fire Officer IV;  
NFPA Public Information Officer;  
NFPA Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist; and  
NFPA Youth Firesetter Program Manager.

**(d) Fire Investigator Track. The Fire Investigator certification track requires a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education training every five years.**

**(A) The Fire Investigator certification track is established effective January 1, 2023, and includes the NFPA Fire Investigator certification.**

**(B) The continuing education must satisfy the requisite knowledge requirements defined in section 4.1.7 of the NFPA Standard 1033 (2022 Edition). This track must be completed through continuing education training. This track is not eligible for combination with service delivery or task performance.**

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