



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NORTH CAROLINA FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION and VOLUNTARY MINIMUM PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

WHEREAS, one of the primary goals of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs is to ensure the safety, health, survival, and well-being of all North Carolina firefighters; and,

WHEREAS, G.S. 58-78-5 (14b) specifies the following duty of the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission"): *"To establish voluntary minimum professional qualifications for all levels of fire service and rescue service personnel, and to issue, deny, suspend, revoke or take similar actions with respect to certifications issued by the Commission of minimum professional qualifications established under this subdivision"*; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission manages the state's voluntary certification system comprised of 32 subjects, in which more than 100,000 fire and rescue personnel participate; and,

WHEREAS, fourteen certification programs are active including: Fire Fighter, Instructor, Technical Rescuer, Fire and Life Safety Educator, Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator, Emergency Vehicle Driver, Hazardous Materials Responder, Fire/Arson Investigator, Fire Officer, Marine Shipboard Fire Fighter, Airport Fire Fighter, Chief 101, Rapid Intervention Crews, and Wildland; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission approved changes to Fire Fighter certification program on October 08, 2019. NFPA 1001 (2019) – Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications identifies the minimum job performance requirements for career and volunteer fire fighters whose duties are primarily structural in nature; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission approved changes to Driver Operator certification program on October 08, 2019. NFPA 1002 (2017) – Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications identifies the minimum job performance requirements for career and volunteer fire fighters and fire brigade personnel who drive and operate fire apparatus; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission approved changes to Airport Fire Fighter certification program on October 08, 2019. NFPA 1003 (2019) – Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications identifies the minimum job performance requirements for airport fire fighters; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission approved changes to Marine Fire Fighting certification program on October 08, 2019. NFPA 1005 (2019) – Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters identifies the minimum job performance requirements for marine fire fighting for land-based fire fighters; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission approved changes to Instructor certification program on October 08, 2019. NFPA 1041 (2019) – Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications identifies the minimum job performance requirements for fire service instructors; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission approved changes to Hazardous Materials certification program on October 08, 2019. NFPA 1072 (2017) – Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications identifies the minimum job performance requirements for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction emergency response personnel; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission approved changes to Rapid Intervention Crews certification program on October 08, 2019. NFPA 1407 (2020) – Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews specifies the basic training procedures for fire service personnel to conduct fire fighter rapid intervention operations to promote fire fighter safety and survival; and,

WHEREAS, certification program adjustments, to all the above referenced programs, will allow more time to concentrate on the application and mastery of the skills. This will provide a better trained firefighter. This is achieved by the firefighter experiencing life-long training and education opportunities within these important accredited certification programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission seeks to provide effective and solid accredited certification programs which provide for the safety and well-being of our emergency responders and the citizens they serve; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs supports the above updates and adjustments to the referenced Commission’s accredited certification programs and will promote them by whatever means necessary in an effort to reduce firefighter line of duty deaths and firefighter injuries as they protect their communities.

Adopted this 4th day of December 2019.

Attest:

Chief Donnie Hall, President

Jake Whistant, Executive Director